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TOPIC:

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION GERMANY - ECUADOR THE
INTERNATIONALER BUND AND PASTORAL SOCIAL-CÁRITAS
ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND
CULTURAL EXCHANGE SINCE 2011 UNTIL THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2015.

ASSIGNMENT PRIOR TO OBTAINING A
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DEDICATED TO

For all those who believe,
That going beyond the border,
Is never enough,

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ABSTRACT

This assignment is specifically based on analyzing, through research and personal experience, international cooperation through volunteering between Ecuador and Germany with organizations that promote social service and cultural exchange. These include the Social Pastoral and IB VAP (Volunteers Abroad Programs). Thus, through the study of North-South and South-North exchange programs, financial contributions, cultural adaptation and interviews, some suggestions are presented in order to improve the program quality and a new and innovated South-North exchange program is created to ensure the success of future volunteers.

KEYWORDS

Volunteering, cooperation, cultural exchange, interrelationship, cultural adaptation, acculturation, intercultural relations.

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INTRODUCTION

We are in a world where collaboration is one of the greatest virtues of human beings, which over the years has diversified into different areas. Nevertheless, we have asked ourselves, what happens when this is extended to the international field? Undoubtedly, this has multiple benefits for the parties involved. This is why we intend to understand the existence of international cooperation agencies that are promoted in Ecuador and specifically, through exchange programs by the German organization *Internationaler Bund (IB)* and its *IB VAP* program (*Volunteers Abroad Programs*). This will be explored through research conducted for one year from October, 2015 to October, 2016 during a volunteer program in the city of Erlangen-Germany.

This paper highlights the importance of cooperation, social service, intercultural experiences and the economic values destined for the various exchange programs of this organization from 2011 to the first half of 2015. In addition, the process of acculturation during volunteering will be evaluated and finally an improved exchange program for *IB VAP* (*Volunteers Abroad Programs*) based on all the information collected and the experiences acquired over the course of the twelve months will be proposed.

The methodology used to carry out this research is "in situ", which was applied in the "Cáritas" Cuenca-Ecuador Social Pastoral and most of all in *IB VAP* (*Volunteers Abroad Programs*) Nürnberg-Germany. Additionally, bibliographical research, statistical analysis and interviews are carried out as well. The aim is to promote the fact that international cooperation through exchange programs has great economic and moral value, both for the people who experience it and for the country where it is developed.

GENERAL OBJETIVE:

To determine the importance of international cooperation between Ecuador and the German organization *Internationaler Bund (IB)* with *IB VAP (Volunteers Abroad Programs)*, through the analysis of the economic contributions and process of acculturation present in the program from 2011 to the first semester of 2015.

Specific objectives:

- To determine the conceptualization and role of International Cooperation, through volunteering programs between Ecuador and Germany.
- Identify how the *Internationaler Bund (IB)* Program is financially supported, determining the benefit for the two countries.
- Evaluate the adaptation process that occurs during this volunteering process.
- Propose an improved exchange program for *IB VAP (Volunteer Abroad Programs)*

CHAPTER I

CONCEPTUALIZATION AND IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND GERMANY

INTRODUCTION.

In this chapter, the importance and conceptualization of international cooperation are mentioned, as well as its foundations, classification and agreements between Germany and Ecuador.

On the other hand, the voluntary exchange program is explored as a form of international cooperation through social service, which has been established through bilateral agreements. This is considered to be little known and promoted in our environment. Therefore, the objective of this study is to highlight the value that volunteering has for the parties involved in these agreements, but especially within German Organization *Internationaler Bund IB*.

1.1 International Cooperation

In the beginning one may think that this topic is considered as a cooperation agreement. Although this is true, it covers a broad field of study. However, how much do we know about "Cooperation" considering cooperation has varied over time and its interpretation has adapted to the diverse needs of society.

Cooperation, according to its definition in the Royal Academy of Language Dictionary, is "The action of working together with another or others to achieve a common purpose or to act favorably towards the interests or purposes of someone." In other words, it can be interpreted as the support that is offered between parties that have established an agreement to reach a certain objective.

Once "cooperation" is defined, the understanding of the word can be broadened and applied in the international field. In this scenario, cooperation can be

presented as a collaborative tool, which provides support for various international processes aimed at the development of a State, such as in the transfer of technical resources, financial resources or in the voluntary exchange between the various actors of the international system.

The actors involved in an international field are governments; non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations or territorial entities. (Urosario, 2010).

According to a text published in 2010 by the University of Rosario-Colombia, international cooperation is considered as an effective means of intertwining and improving existing relations between countries and as an alternative to resolve conflicts or contribute with economic or moral measures that promote the development of these actors (2010).

Moreover, cooperation can be understood as an opportunity that actors have to intervene or act in the international field, in terms of the exchange of experiences and resources between countries, in a flow both North-South and South-North, always taking into account their participation. This is carried out based on a firm foundation of values such as mutual interest, solidarity, equity, sustainability and co-responsibility (Mideplan, 2008)

1.1.1 International Cooperation in History

As already mentioned, Cooperation was not established with all the objectives it currently meets. Its various approaches have varied over the years, and has been mainly seen as an alternative to eradicate poverty in countries with low economic resources. Over time, it has acquired greater advantages, focusing on the development of the countries with a greater participation of diverse international actors.

In the 1950s, International Cooperation emerged as a means to facilitate short-term economic development, with the aim of recovering Western Europe after the great conflict that occurred during World War II. Thus, the confrontation

between east and west determined the aid flows, which were assigned according to the geo-strategic priorities of each block, in order to maintain safe zones for each country (Álvarez, 2012)

The United Nations (UN), in response to the need to live in a dignified and peaceful environment, and also because of the need to provide support to all countries that suffered damages during World War II, created a charter on June 26, 1945, which considers International Cooperation as a means of resolving disputes and recognizing human rights. This was officially enforced in 1948 (Álvarez, 2012).

During approximately 1945 through 1960, cooperation was based on a North-South flow and was mainly focused on infrastructure programs. However, with the help of specialized agencies, various national development plans were established to promote economic growth. Yet, external policies established in the governments of developed countries were considered more important than addressing poverty reduction. In this way, the southern countries only received economic aid but lacked the capacity to control the attributions received (Álvarez, 2012).

By the 1970s, the world community became more aware of underdevelopment in the world, and as a result international organizations were more focused on this area and the aid grew in greater volume. However, despite great efforts, a direct relationship between development and economic growth was not achieved.

Long-term bilateral aid, provided by some governments through development programs for recipient countries, was no longer a priority, but rather sought to gain political or economic benefits to increase exports. Surprisingly, in 1971 to 1973, an international crisis occurred due to the devaluation of the dollar, which affected the entire international monetary system. In this way, the United States was not the only one affected, but several countries that kept their international reserves under this currency, and as a result, Cooperation began to decrease (Hinton, 2004).

According to Álvarez (2012), the economic situation in the 1980s was difficult because developed countries were over-indebted and exports were no longer efficient. The International Monetary Fund had intervene to renegotiate the debt and to carry out economic reforms. In the case of the countries considered as the great powers, they had a considerable decrease of their public expenditure.

As a result of these economic problems, the least benefitted social groups located in Africa and Latin America were greatly affected because their incomes declined and their public services deteriorated. Many debtor countries went bankrupt while Western countries benefited from the income they received.

Although the world situation was not the best during this period, all the hardships that the Southern countries went through were recognized. For this reason, donor States opted to implement in their development policies a structural adjustment focused on social impact. Also, subsidies to NGOs increased so that these could work on social and educational programs that had been neglected as a result of reduced public spending. (Boni, Calabuig, Cuesta, Gómez, Lozano, Monzó, Torres, 2010).

In the 1990s, NGOs took the center stage in development issues and the perspectives of the human race were considered as priorities. The aim as to focus on meeting the needs of human beings, rather than increasing wealth.

It is considered that the true wealth of a nation is found in each of the people who make it up. According to Alvarez, (2012) the three levels of development of a society are defined as: enjoying a long and healthy life, acquiring knowledge, and having access to the resources necessary for a better lifestyle.

Sustainability and human rights were considered important not only for the countries of the South but for all of humanity in general, which is why it began with a high number of summits worldwide. The Vienna Conference on Development and Human Rights is made present and determines that

"All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally, in a fair and equitable manner, on an equal footing and giving them the same weight. The importance of national and regional particularities and of the various historical, cultural and religious heritage must be taken into account, but it is the duty of States, irrespective of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all rights Human rights and fundamental freedoms" (1993, 21p).

The Copenhagen Conference was held in 1995, where the topic of social development and equipment was addressed, which led to a resolution that linked development and equity issues so that poverty and marginalization could be confronted. In this way, communities with scarce resources had the opportunity to enforce their rights to live in a dignified and favorable environment according to their needs.

In 2000, one of the main assemblies organized by the United Nations, called the Millennium Summit, was held, with the objective that all countries reiterate their commitment to uphold freedom, equality, solidarity, respect for nature, tolerance and responsibility. As a consequence of this meeting, similar themes were continually pursued in different parts of the world such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005, among others (Boni and Collaborators, 2010).

During these years, according to Álvarez (2012), plans, development processes and different policies were part of a system of rights that include the duties established by international law, which allowed the population to use and enhance their participation capacity in society.

The importance of international cooperation is greater during these years, since it promotes human well-being and sustainability, in order to create an optimal environment for development, but especially for those who lack wealth and their quality of life is deficient. With the passing of the years, cooperation was adapted to the Globalization era.

According to Boni et al. (2010), the globalization process has changed the international development aid system since its characteristic for being state-centric (states considered as donor actors and aid recipients that have played a central role in the international cooperation system) has become a multi-center system characterized by the multiplication of non-state actors.

With globalization, transnational corporations play a greater role, due to their increase in productivity. On the other hand, the world's economies are beginning to recover, and privatization, market liberalization and foreign investment are seen as options to increase and maintain the economy under optimum conditions.

In 2008, due to the economic¹ crisis, the flow of cooperation was reduced, and new financing actors emerged. As a result, developing countries located in the South created a mechanism to cope with this crisis. They began a search for alternatives of cooperation that broke barriers to what was normally carried out since they established South-South relations.

During this last decade, the South has grown both politically and economically worldwide and has sought to gradually develop through the cooperation given by closely related countries, which has allowed them to form very important international organizations where they can obtain mutual benefits.

To this day, economic and social assistance through cooperation has been satisfactorily handled, but there is still a lot of work to do and there are many better-quality programs that must be applied, especially for those who need them, whether they are States or a specific social community.

1.1.2 Types of International Cooperation

¹ Cooperación, A. (2015). *La Cooperación Internacional: Origen, Historia y Actualidad*. Recovered November 10, 2015 by <http://cooperacionarg.gob.ar/es/la-cooperacion-internacional-origen-historia-y-actualidad>

Once cooperation is defined and it is understood how it is managed, it can be classified according to its aims and objectives. Among these, we have:

Table No 1
Different Types of International Cooperation

<p>1. Financial Cooperation</p>	<p>Considered as any economic transfer, destined to foment the development of the country that receives the benefits, in such a way that public policies that benefit the State are generated. It may also agree to pay very low interest rates or extensions in the long run.</p> <p>This cooperation comes in three forms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grants and credits through projects and programs 2. Goods for development 3. Financing for structural reforms. <p>1.1 Cooperation Channels.</p> <p>Within this type of cooperation there are three channels of Cooperation.</p> <p>Reimbursable funds:</p> <p>Effective financing by establishing a reasonable interest rate and time to develop activities in a developing country.</p> <p>Non-refundable Funds:</p> <p>Cooperation offered by some sources, to assign cash resources to projects that are being developed.</p> <p>Soft Credits:</p> <p>Credits provided by States, institutions</p>
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	or international organizations that have a very low rate of return.
2.- Technical and Scientific Cooperation	It is characterized by transferring knowledge and experiences from one country to another, to contribute with solutions, in order to promote the development of countries that require it. This is carried out through Technical Cooperation Programs led by experts in the field. Generally, it is for a period of 12 months, but varies based on the agreement established.
3.- Humanitarian and Emergency Aid	<p>Support provided to victims of disasters that have been triggered by social, political, natural or armed disasters.</p> <p>This assistance must be attended to in the shortest possible time, with the aim of restoring peace and people's living conditions, mainly dealing with hunger, health or reconstruction of infrastructures that allow for the well-being of people.</p> <p>This type of cooperation is carried out through donations, financial support, technical and professional equipment.</p>
4. Debt Reorganization	<p>These are agreements in which both parties that give the benefits and the recipients of these benefits (and even third parties) participate, so that the debt conditions can be negotiated.</p> <p>These parties may be private or public actors and what is sought is to achieve a flexible environment, where payment</p>

	<p>is guaranteed and where the creditor and the debtor are satisfied. There are four forms of debt reorganization.</p> <p>1. The Waiver Voluntary cancellation (total or partial) of the debt. This is carried out by the creditor.</p> <p>2. Reprogramming Extension of the term to pay the debt either by replacing the contract with another, or not.</p> <p>3. The Assumption A third party buys the debt in exchange for the debtor's benefits, but they must make payments to the creditor.</p> <p>4. Change or exchange of debt. It refers to the cancellation of the debt of the recipient country, in exchange for it to carry out developmental projects within its territory.</p>
5. Decentralized Cooperation	<p>Cooperation carried out by sub-state administrations such as autonomous governments, regional or local public agencies, councils or municipalities. It is promoted because it can incorporate the support of civil society and a larger scale of participation of Third World countries that foster their development. According to Raci (2012), Decentralized Cooperation is "The set of actions carried out or promoted by both local public authorities and civil society organizations between</p>

	countries."
6. South-South Cooperation	<p>It is considered that countries that are in an average state of development or in the process of doing so may offer their cooperation to others who are in a process similar to theirs.</p> <p>This has led to the creation of new links that meet the requirements of the countries.</p>
7.- Triangular Cooperation	<p>It consists of a bilateral or multilateral partnership and a half developed country that acts in favor of a third developing nation, so that the main actors of cooperation can find a two-way benefit, since it can help countries that are in a process of development, and those who require support but with lower costs. These are backed up by the emerging countries already mentioned.</p>
8.- Academic Auspices	<p>Academic auspices are divided into several aspects such as:</p> <p>Scholarships: it is economic support and incentive granted to certain individuals with great academic performance to motivate their specialization.</p> <p>These can cover the entire cost or only a part of it, so that they can carry out research or studies in local or foreign universities.</p> <p>The government or non-governmental organizations usually award such scholarships.</p>

	<p>Fellowships: This is a word of Anglo-saxon origin. It is a recognition that provides to grant endorsement and prestige to those who receive it. These programs usually include a component of academic training and fieldwork, so that an economic reward is received in return.</p>
<p>9. Internships and Volunteering</p>	<p>Internships are considered as a transfer of officials from a state, professional or study entity to another country, with the aim of learning new experiences or gaining knowledge about something specific.</p> <p>In this way, one can obtain another perspective and can learn and collaborate for the development of the institution where they originally worked in.</p> <p>The agreements are carried out during a certain time and the tasks to be completed are established before starting the activities.</p> <p>On the other hand, volunteering is the actions of people in any academic nature, who can provide their support in programs or projects in other countries, in a non-profit manner.</p> <p>Volunteering requires less administrative formalities and is more common in non-governmental organizations, universities or academic centers.</p>

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz, based on Raci (2012).

1.2 Cooperation through International Volunteering

Volunteering, which is known as a way of providing aid in a selfless manner, has been one of the means in which certain organizations worldwide have chosen to create and reap benefits for both the people who provide their services and those who receive them.

It is determined that volunteer organizations are made up of citizens who work in a selfless and selfless manner, promoting open proposals and with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of society, encouraging teamwork and obtaining continuous learning².

In Germany for Baldas, Beck and Plichta (2009), in the publication of the book *Freiwilligeneinsätze Weltweit* (Volunteers in the World), they determine that a part-time activity can be comparable with an "international service" regardless of the direction that it goes towards, whether it is Germans abroad, or foreigners in Germany. They consider that volunteering is a free service that does not require charging payments or other monetary services; however, it is necessary to consider the accommodations, food and pocket money that should be assigned to the person who undergoes this process. Currently, this concept is used worldwide.

The United Nations, taking into account the International Year of Volunteers, through its committee of experts, defined three essential elements that should be presented when carrying out this service. These are the following:

"The activity should not be undertaken primarily for remuneration, although it may allow the reimbursement of expenses and some symbolic payment.

The activity must be a voluntary decision of the person who decides to carry it out. In the event that some school plans exist for community services, it would be necessary to motivate students to participate in volunteer work and in

² Bolunta. (2011). *Agencia para el Voluntariado y la Participación Social*. Recovered December 9, 2015 by http://www.unv.org/ARCHIVO/documentos/recursos/2002_para_voluntarios_Bolunta.pdf

programs such as Food for Work, where there is an explicit exchange between a community's commitment and food assistance "(UN 1985).

The activity should benefit a person other than the volunteer, or the general society, although it is clear that volunteering also brings significant benefit to the volunteer." (EU, 1999).

In this way, according to Navajo (2004), and based on the above concepts, volunteering is a way of acting responsibly, assuming a commitment due to one's own initiative, and not for profit, in order to provide support in situations where there is a need for collaboration.

Generally speaking, volunteering is handled openly as it can be done by anyone regardless of age, academic preparation or experience. The essential requirements³ for carrying this process out should be: having the desire and the time to do it, having a interest in learning, being able to working selflessly, and offering stability through commitment.

In general, when accepting to work as a volunteer in a personal way and as a commitment, the agreement is presented in writing, assuming it as a "contract." Here it establishes the duties or rights that the person will perform during the volunteer process. Nevertheless, it is important to take into account that a volunteer should not substitute the work of a professional.

Based on *Freiwilligeneinsätze Weltweit* (2009), there are two key points of volunteering that can be identified. First, it mentions the promotion of a culture of solidarity to create a horizon of life, fostered by the participation of all those included in this service. Secondly, it seeks to build a shared culture, either within the country or abroad, where solidarity, freedom and peace can be integrated.

On the other hand, there are also the obligations that a person as a volunteer must perform, among which the following are considered:

³ Bolunta. (2011). *Agencia para el Voluntariado y la Participación Social*. Recovered December 10, 2015 by http://www.unv.org/ARCHIVO/documentos/recursos/2002_para_voluntarios_Bolunta.pdf

Table No 2
Volunteer Obligations

Give support	In the workplace, where the activities that have been established are carried out.
Comply with commitments	Accept predetermined rules and responsibilities.
Act diligently	According to the tasks that are assigned within the institution, taking the initiative and following the respective rules.
Participate in the training activities	Clearer perspectives can be obtained on the work to be done, in order to maintain work quality.
Keep confidentiality	It is necessary to act with caution with the information received from the organization.
Respect human rights	Of each of the people who work and assist in the organization of work.

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz, based on information from plataformavoluntariado.com (2012).

The importance of volunteer work denotes a personal development, but above all fosters social development. In other words, it causes both individual and collective benefits, which reveal a change of mentality, which promotes the integration of society from a more humanitarian point of view.

1.3 Cooperation Areas of International Volunteering

By understanding international volunteering as the disinterested action carried out by a person within a foreign organization where there is a need for collaboration, it can be analyzed that there are diverse fields of action where such work can be carried out. This demonstrated that volunteering can be considered as a social service.

It is important to emphasize that volunteering is a service to society, this being one of the most important issues at hand. It can be understood that volunteering is considered

as an integral practice that promotes the development and improvement of mechanisms to reduce inequality by providing opportunities that encourage change and learning.⁴

Social volunteering emerges as a response to the socio-economic and socio-cultural changes that countries have undergone in recent years. These are due to the fact that, according to Gómez and Mielgo (2011), the multiplication of old needs and the appearance of new ones affect a certain group of people who have social difficulties, which, among the most important are poverty and marginalization. For this reason, the search for alternatives that improve the quality of life of those who need it emerges as a response to these problems.

It can be determined that this service is a privileged form of social participation within a society, since based on Gómez and Mielgo (2011), it is analyzed that this not only depends on personal participation, but also sectors and groups are motivated to participate because they benefit from the results of the volunteering process. In this way, the parties that intervene are benefited, albeit in different circumstances, but always at the same time that the action takes place.

In the social aspect, one must always analyze strategies that provide an optimal service to people, which is why, according to Gómez and Mielgo (2011), three key points are essential, which are very important when dealing with people, and these are:

- "Introduce knowledge and critical analysis of the social reality that fosters sensitivity.
- Develop skills and methods of participation, as well as ways of working as a team.
- Encourage attitudes of dialogue and understanding that not only lead to creating jobs for people by offering and imposing solutions, but also by enabling them to work with people, encouraging them to find their own solutions (8p).

Through various social activities in different fields of cooperation, whether these include activities to promote aid, prevention, encouragement, promotion or integration

⁴ Sinaloa, U. (2010). *¿Qué es el Servicio Social?* Recovered October 19, 2016 by http://serviciosocial.uas.edu.mx/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=6

of people with different needs within a society, social volunteering can be considered as an indispensable way in which volunteers can collaborate in the pursuit of their well-being. This is why these areas are mainly related to health, education, environment, housing or urbanism.

Social service in volunteering is mainly focused on collective attention, as it seeks to create links between the parties involved so that they can complement each other, support each other and learn from each other. This is why these services are divided⁵ into care for the homeless, for the elderly, for children, for the family, for women, for people with disabilities, for immigrants, for refugees and for welcoming services.

When performing a service in any of these areas, it is essential to take into account the knowledge, experiences, talents and possibilities that the person who will carry it out will have. It is also important to consider, that those who will be involved in receiving its benefits, must be willing to accept, tolerate, cooperate and coexist together, so that the volunteering process can be considered successful when both parties are rewarded.

Social service is the very essence for which volunteering is based on, since cooperation, participation and solidarity can be considered as its main values, that allow for the actions in the different areas to be developed, always looking for the welfare of those who need it.

1.4 Volunteering in Ecuador: A Form of Current Cooperation

A volunteer exchange program can be understood as a form of international cooperation with the aim of generating mutual benefits on broad social issues between the parties. Ecuador, a South American country that is in this continuous process of development, has also seen the opportunity to be part of these agreements to benefit from all that this social service entails.

⁵ Asturias, T. (2015). *Servicios Sociales Especializados (atención por colectivos)*. Recovered October 19, 2016 by <http://www.trabajosocialasturias.org/la-profesion/ambitofunciones/ambitos-de-desempeno-del-trabajo-social.html>

Ecuador is a country that is rich in natural resources, culture and tourists. According to the website ecuadorencifras.gob.ec, with data obtained until March 2016, it has approximately 16,232,000 inhabitants, with an urban population of 63.7% and a rural population of 36.3%. It's economically active population (PEA) is a total of 6,093,173 and inactive population (PEI) is 5,401,243 inhabitants of which 27.8% of the EAP are engaged in agriculture, 17.8% are dedicated to industry and 54.4% to services, but 5.7% of the population is unemployed and 25.6% of the population is considered below the poverty line.

Although the situation has changed in recent years, Ecuador is still struggling to ensure that there are efficient sources of employment to fight underemployment and to eradicate poverty. However, there are still structural and socioeconomic problems, which have an impact on the quality of life of people, so finding solutions to these problems are the objectives of cooperation, through volunteering.

If we go back to the origin of volunteering in Ecuador⁶, it begins in Guayaquil, one of the main cities of the country, where a collaborative relationship was developed between the Fire Department and the Charity Board, which were considered the first organizations where voluntary help towards society was promoted.

Over the years, the creation of charitable institutions, supported by administrative, financial and operational systems, have been promoted. These have benefited the country by providing assistance in matters of food, clothing and shelter, especially for those who need it most. A clear example is the Pastoral Social Cáritas- Ecuador, which is found in 24 jurisdictions of the country.

Subsequently, charitable institutions manage to establish themselves as non-governmental organizations or to be connected to agreements with international organizations, as in the case of one of the main organizations in Ecuador called *Misión Solidaria Manuela Espejo*, which, consistent with international instruments, in this case

⁶ Benítez, J. (2008). *El Voluntariado en el Ecuador y su Inserción en las Políticas Públicas*. Recovered December 18, 2015 by http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2008/ELVoluntariadoenEcuador_19-03-2008_final_web.pdf

the United Nations, strengthens the protection of the rights of people with disabilities throughout the country.

In this way, volunteering was becoming more and more important in Ecuador and was boosting its development. Currently, it is managed from another context, not only within the national territory, but it can also be managed from abroad, with the main objective being the service to those who need it most.

1.4.1 Voluntary Organizations: Main Features

In Ecuador, it was determined that volunteering focuses primarily on civil society and on international cooperation and later on the private sector and in the State where the various institutions are distributed. This was considered relevant and as a form of motivation to adapt it within society since 2000, the year that the United Nations declared as the International Year of the Volunteer.

According to what has already been analyzed, Ecuador has undergone a series of volunteering stages over the years. This is why many chose to intervene in this process, such as communities, the church, profit-making NGO, who maintain a relationship with high socio-economic groups for their support and non-profit NGOs that maintain a technical vision. In other words, they establishing a relationship with young people from colleges, universities or professionals.

The country has also seen the need to create representative structures made up of civilians, which on certain occasions, require international cooperation seeking to strengthen volunteering. In this way, an Ecuadorian Foundation for Voluntary Work (FETV) was created, whose purpose is to group together a large number of volunteer organizations.

On May 21, 1986, the Ecuadorian Coordination of Voluntary Work was created through ministerial agreement N° 1112/87, with the objective of creating interaction between several organizations to coordinate their volunteer work. Among these are the Child and Family Institute (INNFA), the Volunteer Coordinating Agency and the General Secretariat of Volunteer Service, among others.

In 2002, the FETV reforms its statutes and consolidates itself as the Ecuadorian Federation of Voluntary Work, which aims to "gain a knowledge of national volunteerism and identify its strengths and weaknesses, to develop an effective methodology in training and coordination of Voluntary agencies in the country." The FETV is made up of 12 members who are the main provincial coordinates of the country, located in Guayas, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Los Ríos, El Oro, Carchi, Pichincha, Tungurahua, Chimborazo, Azuay, Loja and Cañar. It regularly assists the World Volunteer Council for the planning of future activities

In addition, the United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV), together with the Association of Municipalities of Ecuador, is currently working to include volunteering as a local development strategy and as a tool for citizen participation.

In 2004, the United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV) supported the creation of the Volunteer Office in Ecuador (MVE), made up of both national and international institutions, with a total of twenty-two members. These institutions are aimed at strengthening and promoting volunteering in the country, intensifying citizen participation, promoting and delivering positive results to people. Currently MVE is the most important and active institutional platform in the whole territory. The organizations that make it up are the following:

Table No 3
Organizations of the Volunteer Office in Ecuador

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -International Cooperation Agency of Japan (JICA) - Coordinating Association of Guayas Volunteers (ACORVOL) -Association Coordinator of Loja Volunteer (ACOVOL) - International Association of Voluntary Efforts (IAVE) - Scout Association of Ecuador Children International 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ESPOL - National Center for Fishery Resources - Ecuadorian Federation of Voluntary Work (FETV) -Women's Foundation Volunteer Baca Ortiz Hospital -Minga Foundation -Cecilia Rivadeneira Foundation - Ignacio Volunteer Service Foundation (SIGVOL)
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Council of Higher Education (CONESUP) -Ecuadorian Feminine Corporation (CORFEC) - Ecuadorian Red Cross - Peace Corps - Civil defense -SOROPTIMIST International 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Educate Yourself Foundation -Instituto Nacional de la Niñez y la Familia (INNFA) - Women in Action and Development (MADE) -Pakarina - United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV) -Secretariat General of Voluntary Service (SEGESVO)
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Created by Mariuxu Ortiz, based on Benítez, J (2004),
http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2008/ELVoluntariadoenEcuador_19-03-2008_final_web.pdf

As can be seen, there are many organizations within the State that provide their services to volunteering and generate several projects of active participation in order to initiate development work. Among the main organizations that promote volunteering in Ecuador are:

Table No 4
Main Voluntary Organizations in Ecuador

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinating Association of Guayas Volunteers (ACORVOL) -Secretariat General Service -Voluntario de Pichincha (SEGESVOL) - Scout Association of Ecuador -Children International -Body of Peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Civil Defense -Instituto Nacional de la Niñez y la Familia (INNFA) -United Nations Volunteer Program (UNV) -Ignacio Volunteer Service Foundation (SIGVOL) -Ecuadorian Red Cross
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Created by Mariuxu Ortiz, based on Benítez, J (2004),
http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/pdf/2008/ELVoluntariadoenEcuador_19-03-2008_final_web.pdf

Although the Ecuadorian State is working to provide support to voluntary organizations,

it has not developed at the same level as in Germany. This is because in this country there is a Federal Voluntary Service, which is considered as a compromise project that seeks to create a culture of cooperation and move as many people as possible, to make a commitment to society. In Ecuador, however, over the years, thanks to cultural changes and mainly with globalization, more organizations have been created that seek to support this community service because of the many benefits that have been received from it.

CHAPTER II

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS: INTERNATIONALER BUND (IB) IN FÜRTH-GERMANY AND CÁRITAS IN CUENCA-ECUADOR.

INTRODUCTION

In this second chapter, the main characteristics of each of the organizations that make exchange volunteering possible are described, which are located in Ecuador and in Germany. Subsequently, the cooperation agreement between the two countries, the North-South and South-North exchange programs, and finally the social service characteristic of these programs are analyzed, together with the processes of cultural adaptation that young people experience during their working period.

The data evaluated in this chapter demonstrate the statistical variations in the programs that have been adapted in each of the years analyzed, for both young Ecuadorians and Germans who have volunteered.

2.1 Coordinating Organizations of the International Agreement: Pastoral Social and *Internationaler Bund*

Within the exchange programs the coordinating organizations are known to those public or private entities through which volunteering is possible, either inside or outside a country. These organizations can be public, private or mixed and are responsible for carrying out all the respective procedures so that a volunteer can start their activities abroad.

Meanwhile, these search and work with other social organizations within their own State, with which agreements are maintained for internal cooperation or to allow a volunteer to carry out their activities in a determined place. Each volunteer's objective is to support the team during their time of volunteer work.

In the German state, according to Baldas, Beck and Plichta (2009), all the coordinating organizations that dedicate their services to exchange volunteering are standardized by

the *Bundesfreiwilligendienst*, known in Spanish as the National Volunteer Service, to which can be accessed through its website bundes-freiwilligendienst.de. This service encourages young people from Germany or from different parts of the world to get to know the experience of volunteering and the requirements to do so.

2.1.1 Pastoral Social “Cáritas”

The service to those who need it most is an attitude and a form of daily work that the Pastoral Social, known as Cáritas worldwide, has been operating since 2011. It is located in the city of Cuenca, Ecuador. It is considered as an Archdiocesan Commission, whose objectives are: to coordinate, to plan, to execute and to evaluate the activities of social action in the parishes and *vicarías*⁷ of the city. The Social Pastoral has jurisdiction in the South *Vicaría*, which integrates the provinces of Azuay, Cañar and Loja.

The Pastoral Social organization argues⁸ that since its inception, the work it carried out was through programs and projects at the service of the population. However, it has not coordinated with the cities different parishes, so it is based only on welfare activities. Yet, over time, it was based on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Spirit of the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean and created a proposal for human promotion, with which the well-being of people in various situations of need was the most important subject to deal with.

Currently, the Social Pastoral has different areas of projects among which we have: Social Assistance, Solidarity Housing, Volunteering, Community Development, Defense of Community and Environmental Rights, Migration, Women and Family, Prison Pastoral, Eradication of Alcoholism, Prostitution and Child Labor.

Cáritas serves the different *vicarías* of the city of Cuenca such as the Southern, Urban, Suburban, Western, Indigenous, Oriental *Vicaría* and the Youth Ministry. It is

⁷ *Vicaría*.- Oficina o tribunal en que despacha el vicario. (rae.es, 2016). *Vicario apostólico*.- Dignidad eclesiástica designada por la Santa Sede, para regir con jurisdicción ordinaria las cristiandades en territorios donde aún no está introducida la jerarquía eclesiástica. Suelen ser obispos titulares (rae.es, 2016)

⁸ Pastoral Social. (2004). *Proyectos y Servicios*. Recovered March 15, 2015 by <http://www.pastoralsocialcuenca.org/>

composed of an Archdiocesan Commission of Social Pastoral (CAPS), where there is a general coordinator who is assumed by the Archbishop of Cuenca, three representatives of each vicarage (1 priest and 2 laity), coordinators of the project areas and coordinators of the various commissions.

Of all the activities that the Social Pastoral carries out, one of them is the International Volunteering, which emerged in 2004 through an agreement with Caritas Austria and in 2006 with the German organization International Bund. One of the main objectives of the Pastoral is to encourage the community to provide shelter to the volunteers who come from these countries. Also, it is also intended that young people from the Southern Vicariate, mainly from the Cuenca canton of the province of Azuay (city where the Social Pastoral is located in), decide to have an experience with volunteering in Germany. This is the only country with which the Social Pastoral has an agreement to carry out the South-North exchange program, that is, Ecuador-Germany.

On the other hand, each year the Social Pastoral carries out a project called "Friends of Austria." This is a group of people that is responsible for raising funds to arrive in Ecuador and carry out Social activities during a period of twelve months in one of the neediest communities within the Archdiocese of Cuenca. So that there is an opportunity to interact with the community and jointly initiate all the proposed projects.

It should be emphasized that the "Cáritas" Social Pastoral does not only exist in the city of Cuenca, but that it is established throughout the country as a Confederation of Diocesan Caritas and is responsible for strengthening and developing social action and commitment in favor of The justice of the Christian communities.

2.1.2 Exchange Program IB VAP (*Volunteers Abroad Programs*) in the *Internationaler Bund* (IB)

Internationaler Bund (IB), known in Spanish as the International Confederation⁹, was founded in 1949 in Tübingen-Germany and is considered an independent non-

⁹ Internationaler,B. (2005). *Freiwilligen-Program*. Recovered February 9, 2016 by <http://www.internationaler-bund.de/mainnavigation/startseite/>

governmental organization of political and ecclesial parties. It works with partner organizations on issues with its youth, social work, environment, rehabilitation and health, violence prevention and human rights. Its main office is in Frankfurt and has approximately 14,000 employees nationwide, who work in 700 different facilities, providing services to about 350,000 people that include children, young adults and adults.

This organization's general principle is to collaborate with society, to promote its development and protect its integrity, which it seeks to obtain through social institutions with which agreements are maintained to allow the intervention and collaboration of volunteers; this is how this organization tries to achieve these objectives.

The *Internationaler Bund* IB organization has a program called IB VAP (Volunteers Abroad Program) which is distributed in two different work teams. One is the IB VAP Kassel that is responsible for distributing volunteers to the different states within Germany or to other Europe countries, such as Spain, Poland, Italy, Belgium, England, Israel, India and now Cameroon, Tanzania and South Africa. On the other hand, there is also IB VAP Franken which sustains agreements with the countries of Spain, England, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Scotland and the United States.

In the case of IB VAP Franken, this organization is located in the city of *Nürnberg*, which since 2004, promotes volunteering abroad. It seeks to establish a commitment of dialogue, justice and peace between the different societies or cultures involved, when carrying out such volunteering either inside or outside of Germany through the North-South and South-North programs.

In the case of the South-North program, this organization works with several Latin American countries; Ecuador established an agreement in 2014. Currently in 2016, five young people were selected to work as volunteers in Germany, two of which were from Ecuador, one from Nicaragua, and two from Mexico. In the future, it is intended to give ten young people from Latin America the opportunity to volunteer, and among them four will be Ecuadorians.

People who are interested in participating must submit a request by a set date and choose a country from a wide range of applications around the world. One can later find the best option in a charity, social or cultural organization where one can develop Volunteer activities with children, young adults, women, the elderly, migrants or people with special needs.

Once the young volunteers have been selected *Internationaler Bund*¹⁰ IB offers the following:

1. Volunteer training.
2. Search and select a host organization where the young adult can work as a volunteer (maximum 40 hours per week) and minimum 20 days of vacation in 12 months.
3. Person who carries out the accompaniment within the host organization.
4. Pedagogical accompaniment before, during and after volunteering.
5. Accommodation and meals if required.
6. Seminars.
7. Visa procedures.

In this way IB intends to give the greatest opportunity to all young people who are selected to volunteer abroad, providing them with the necessary mechanisms to do so, so that their year is one of the best experiences they can acquire, based on collaboration but especially focused on learning.

2.2 Agreement between IB VAP and Pastoral Social "Cáritas"

According to an interview with the psychologist Jackeline Vintimilla who works as a pedagogue and is in charge of the volunteers South-North program in IB VAP Franken, the cooperation agreement through volunteering began in 2006, where the *Cáritas* organization located in Cuenca-Ecuador and IB VAP Franken, based in *Fürth*-

¹⁰ Internationaler,B. (2005). *Freiwilligen-Program IB Franken*. Recovered February 9, 2016 by <http://www.internationaler-bund.de/mainnavigation/startseite/>

Germany, decided to create an exchange agreement young volunteers. (Vintimilla, J, personal communication, May 1, 2016).

In this year, only the North-South exchange program began, but by 2014 the proposal for a South-North program was presented, which would give two Ecuadorians the opportunity to go to Germany. By September 2015, this exchange program was finally possible. Both countries currently receive and send volunteers annually.

2.2.1 North-South Volunteer Program

According to information provided by the psychologist Vintimilla (2016), the IB VAP Franken North-South exchange program is made up of a Board of Directors, which is located in the city of Frankfurt and runs different regions throughout the State. For the Bavarian region, the IB VAP Team consists of a coordinator, four pedagogues and a person who manages the administration.

Structure of volunteering. - In the North-South Program, the guiding of the volunteer is of the most importance, which is why the young people who will carry out their work in Ecuador will have the following structure.

Figure No 1
North-South Program Volunteer Structure

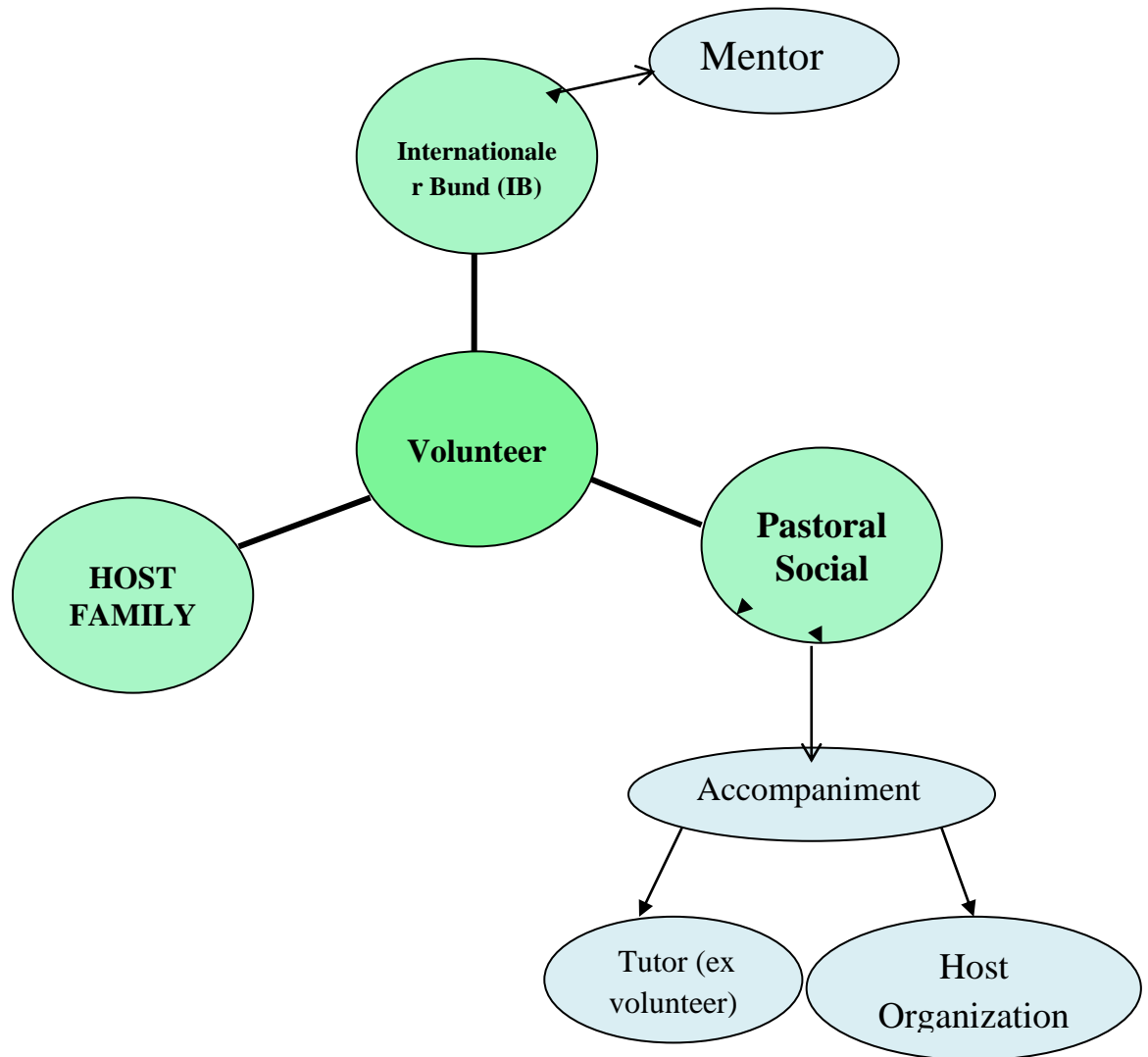


Figure 1, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Structure of the Volunteering Program. North-South Program.

Selection process. - About 85 young Germans are selected each year, ranging from 18 to 28 years old, the most popular range being between 18 and 20 years. These young people are selected to go to different countries, where they will participate as volunteers for a period of one year, working with children, young people, women, the elderly or

people with special needs, in different areas of work: social work, schools, environment, rehabilitation and health, violence prevention and human rights.

Figure No 2
Volunteer Structure: North-South Program



Figure 2, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Estructura del Voluntariado Programa Norte-Sur. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 17). Volunteer Service Abroad. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Counterparts. Material of IB VAP.

The different destination countries for volunteering are found in different parts of the world as can be seen in the image.

Image No 1

Destination Countries: North-South Program



Vintimilla J. (2016). Destination Countries: North-South Program. Illustration. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 17). Volunteer Service Abroad. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Counterparts. Material of IB VAP.

Housing: Volunteers will have the option to live throughout the year with a host family. However the first three months will be considered as a test period, since in the case that the volunteer or the family do not feel at ease, they have the option to change families or live in a shared apartment, so that the volunteer can feel comfortable.

Food: The IB organization will be responsible for paying a value of 100 dollars a month to each host family. In case the volunteer does not live with a family, this money will be given with the rest of the volunteers' pocket money.

Seminars: IB *Franken* offers four seminars during the whole volunteering process during the twelve months. The seminars are free of charge and cover accommodation and meals.

Figure No 3
North-South Volunteer Program Seminars

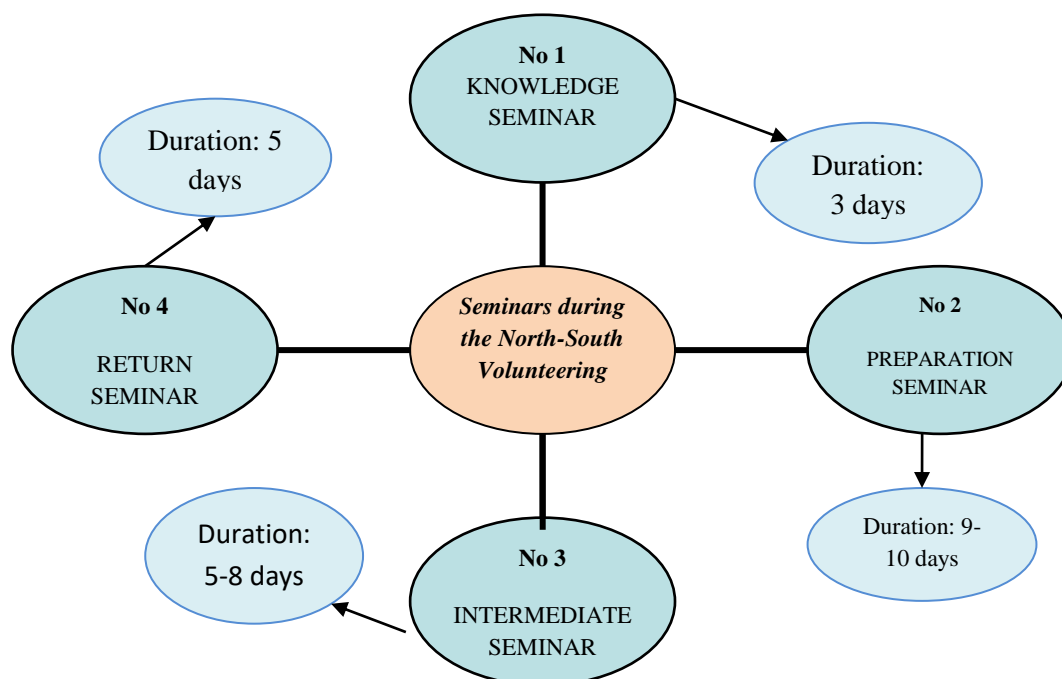


Figure 3, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. North-South Volunteer Program Seminars. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 17). Volunteer Service Abroad. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Counterparts. Material of IB VAP.

Financing. - The German State, through the creation of its ministry *Das Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)* - Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, created in 2010 the program of *Internationaler Jugendfreiwilligendienst IJFD* - International Voluntary Service for Youth. In 2008, the *Weltwärts*¹¹ program claimed to be a volunteer service for the development of Germany and facilitated more than 25,000 volunteers to live a great experience collaborating in development projects.

Internationaler Bund currently works with these two programs, the economic structure for volunteering is the following:

¹¹ Weltwarst. (2013). *Voluntariado en Alemania*. Recovered May 19, 2016 by <http://www.weltwaerts.de/es/>

Figure No 4
Financing of the North-South Volunteer Program

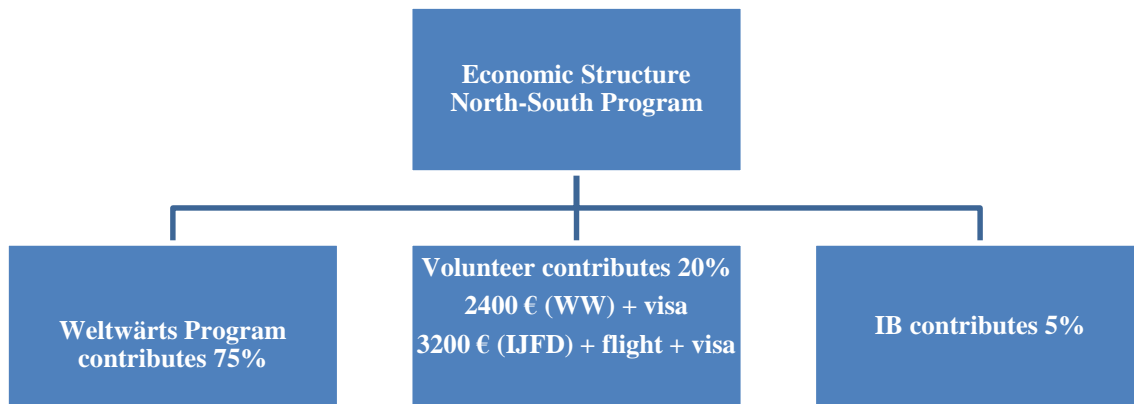


Figure 4, Mariuxi Ortiz. Financing of the North-South Volunteer Program. Based on en Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 17). Volunteer Service Abroad. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Counterparts. Material of IB VAP.

With these three contributions the volunteer can access the following benefits:

- Private insurance for issues such as health, accidents and damages to third parties.
- Financing for all seminars during the volunteering including transportation, accommodation and meals.
- Roundtrip airplane tickets from Germany to the country of destination (Weltwärts only).
- Pocket money for the volunteer, which equaled to a value of approximately €100 a month.

2.2.2 South-North Volunteer Program

According to an interview with Carmen Abril (2015), who is the coordinator of the International Volunteer Program of the Social Pastoral *Cáritas* in Cuenca-Ecuador, the South-North exchange program with IB Franken started in 2014. Through an agreement with psychologist Jackeline Vintimilla, coordinator of the South-North volunteer program in Germany, the opportunity was granted for previously selected young

Ecuadorians to volunteer and travel for a year to this European state (April, C, personal communication, 20 September 2015).

Structure of volunteering. - In the South-North Program, the guiding during the entire volunteering process in Germany has the following structure.

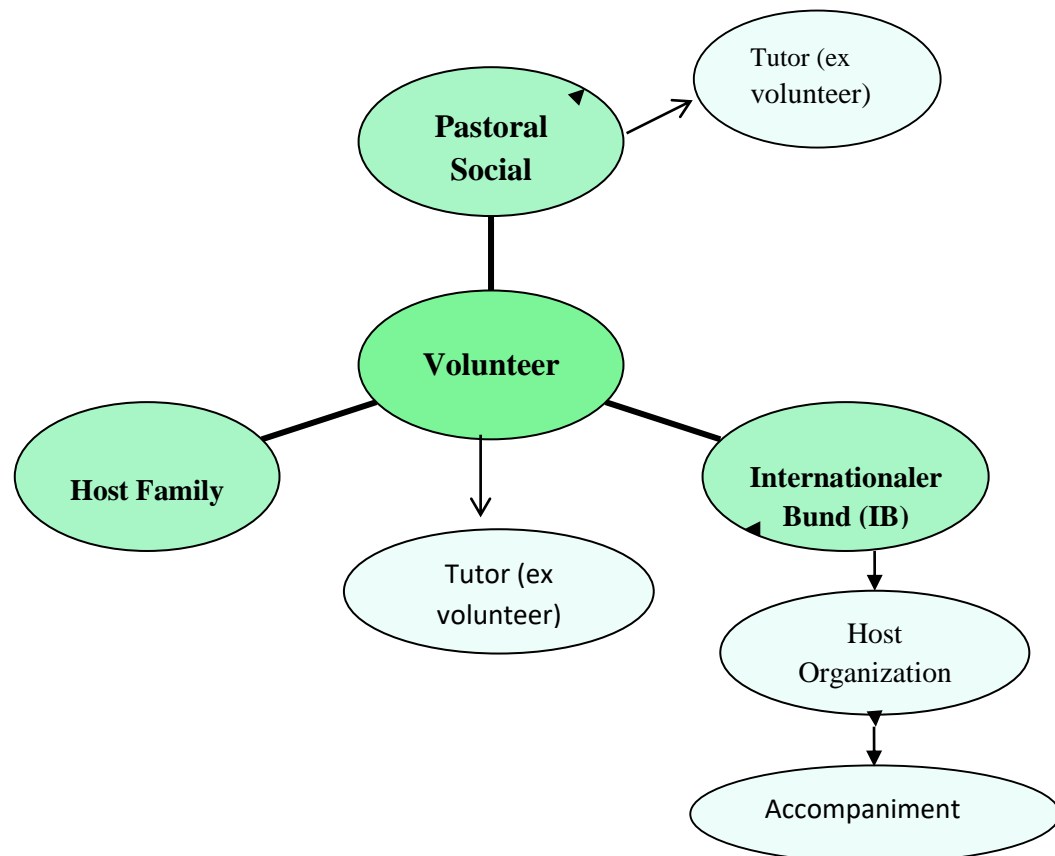


Figure 5, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. South-North Program Volunteer Structure. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 23). Volunteer Service in Germany. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Ecuador. Material of IB VAP.

Selection process. - Young applicants between the ages of 20 and 26, in the first instance must present a folder to the Social Ministry with all the required personal documents, in addition to filled in questionnaire which contains questions about the motivation to perform volunteering abroad.

Subsequently, the Social Pastoral chooses the folders that they consider suitable for volunteering and are immediately translated into German and sent to the IB VAP. (Germany). Once the coordinators of the South-North program in Germany have reviewed the folders, they will interview the young applicants via Skype to prepare a report and finally, together with the host organizations that have been previously selected by IB VAP, the volunteer is also chosen.

In Ecuador, there is a process of selection and preparation for the young applicants before making the trip, which consists of the following:

Figure No 6

Volunteer Selection and Preparation: South-North Program

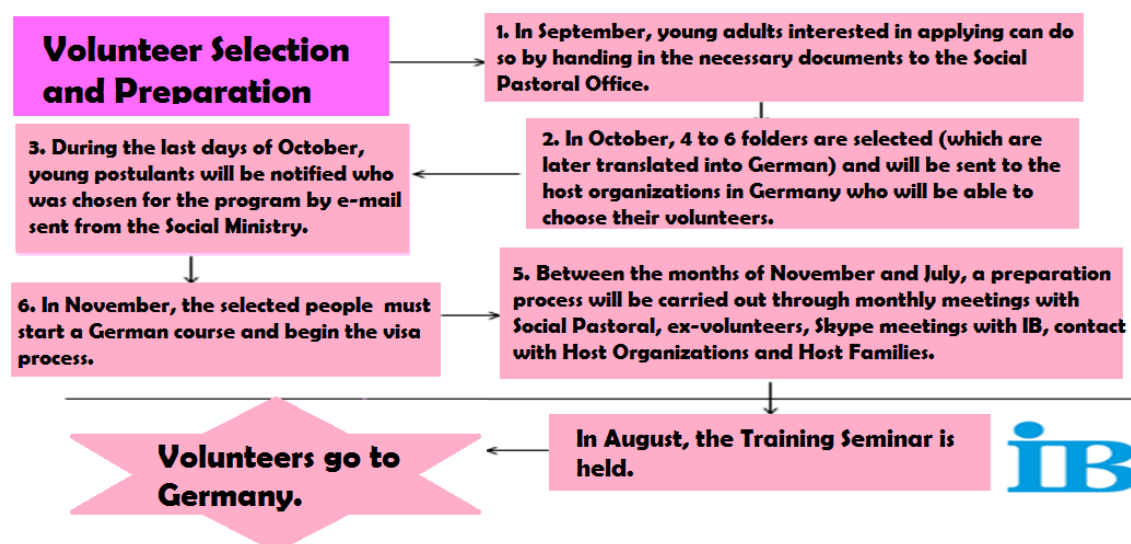


Figure 6, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Volunteer Selection and Preparation: South-North Program. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 23). Volunteer Service in Germany. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Ecuador. Material of IB VAP.

The duration of the volunteering program will be for a period of one year and it starts in September. On the other hand, young people will have the option of performing their work in different cities of the Bavaria-Germany region where IB maintains agreements with several host organizations. They will have the possibility of collaborating with children, young adults, women, the elderly or people with special needs in different areas such as social work, schools, environment, rehabilitation and health, violence prevention and human rights.

Image No 2

Region of Bavaria-Germany



Vintimilla J. (2016). Region of Bavaria Germany: Location of Reception Organizations. South-North Program. Type. Illustration. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 23). Volunteer Service in Germany. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Ecuador. Material of IB VAP.

Accommodation: Volunteers will have the option of living with a host family. Every three months an IB tutor will visit to assess family-volunteer relationships. The first three months will be considered a test period, since in case the volunteer or the family do not feel at ease, a new host family will be sought and the change will be made immediately.

Food: The organization IB will give €150 to each volunteer that will be used to pay their host family each month, which will cover food and accommodation. Additionally, the volunteers will also be given pocket money for their own expenses.

Seminars: IB Franken offers four seminars during the entire process of volunteering during the twelve months. The seminars are free of charge and also cover accommodation and meals.

Figure No 7
South-North Volunteer Program Seminars

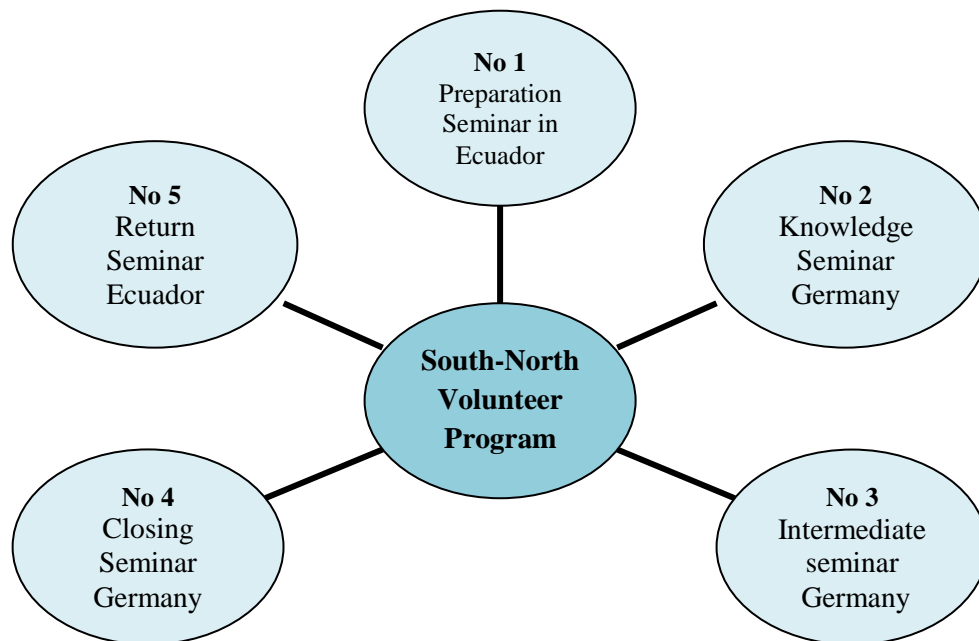


Figure 7, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. South-North Volunteer Program Seminars. Based on Vintimilla. J. (2016, May, 23). Volunteer Service in Germany. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Ecuador. Material of IB VAP.

Financing. - Financing for the South-North program is carried out in the same way as the North-South program through two programs: through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (DAS), which in 2010 created the *Internationaler Jugendfreiwilligendienst IJFD* - International Voluntary Service for Youth Program. In 2008, the *Weltwärts* program argued that it was a voluntary service for the development of Germany, which has facilitated more than 25,000 volunteers to live a great experience, by collaborating in development projects.

Internationaler Bund currently works with these two programs, and its economic structure for volunteering is as follows:

Figure No 8
Financing of the South-North Volunteer Program

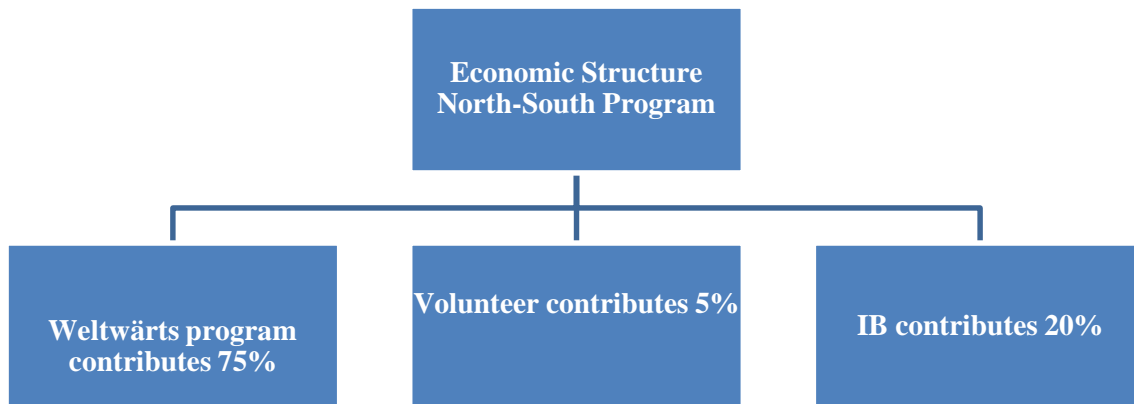


Figure 8, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Financing of the South-North Volunteer Program. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 23). Volunteer Service in Germany. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Ecuador. Material of IB VAP.

With the contribution of 95% between the IB and Weltwärts the volunteer can access these benefits:

- Private insurance for issues such as health, accidents and damages to third parties.
- Financing for all seminars during the volunteering including transportation, accommodation and meals.
- Roundtrip airplane tickets from Ecuador-Germany and Germany-Ecuador (*Weltwärts* only).
- Food and board throughout the volunteer program. (Monthly payment to the host family).
- Intensive German course for 5 months. (The volunteer will have the option to choose the level they require).

On the other hand, the volunteer will contribute with the 5% that consists of:

- Payment of Visa procedures
- Paying for the German course in Ecuador

It is important to know that the organizations of Pastoral Social and IB seek to ensure that both North-South and South-North volunteers feel at ease with their host organization, host families or that they have good physical and mental health. However, in the case that the situation is different, these issues will be handled through dialogue with the volunteer, later with the Mentor and finally with the Organization in order to find a solution.

Once the options have been analyzed, the decision to change the host family, host organization, psychological support or medical care can be reached. However, if a solution cannot be found to improve the volunteer's stay, the volunteer will have the option to return to their country of origin, if certain documentation that is required by the IB is presented.

2.3 Pastoral Social and *Internationaler Bund*: Cooperation Exchange Program Agreement from 2010 to the First Semester of 2015.

During the course of this research and due to my stay in Germany, it was possible to acquire information until 2016 and to begin the evaluation of the data since 2010. Thanks to an interview with Jackeline Vintimilla, IB VAP in Germany and Carmen Abril, coordinator of the International Volunteer in Social Pastoral, it was concluded that during this time period, volunteering became more important and welcomed by both organizations. For this reason, this information is taken into account in order to carry out the following statistical tables, showing the number of volunteers who have traveled each year, places where they have gone to perform their service and host organizations where volunteers carried out their projects.

- **North-South Program**

Table 5
Volunteers in Ecuador in the period 2010-2016

Number of Volunteers in Cities of Ecuador								
Cities	Year							Total/ cities
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Cuenca	6	6	8	8	8	6	8	50
Ambato	0	0	2	3	7	4	5	21
Tena	0	3	1	3	4	3	4	18
Riobamba	0	0	0	1	2	4	5	12
Quito	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Manabí	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
Total/year	6	9	11	15	21	20	26	108

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (16 de May, 2016).

The following table explains how many volunteers have been sent by the IB VAP organization to cities in Ecuador, from 2010 to 2015, while 2016 indicates how many young people will be sent in the month of September to carry out their Volunteering for one year.

The result is that during these years, the city of Cuenca is one of the largest destinations for young German volunteers, while Manabí is one of the cities with the least influx. On the other hand, there is a greater participation of young volunteers in the year 2016 with a total of 26 volunteers. Finally, during these years there have been 108 people who have had the opportunity to travel to Ecuador to collaborate voluntarily with their Host Organizations.

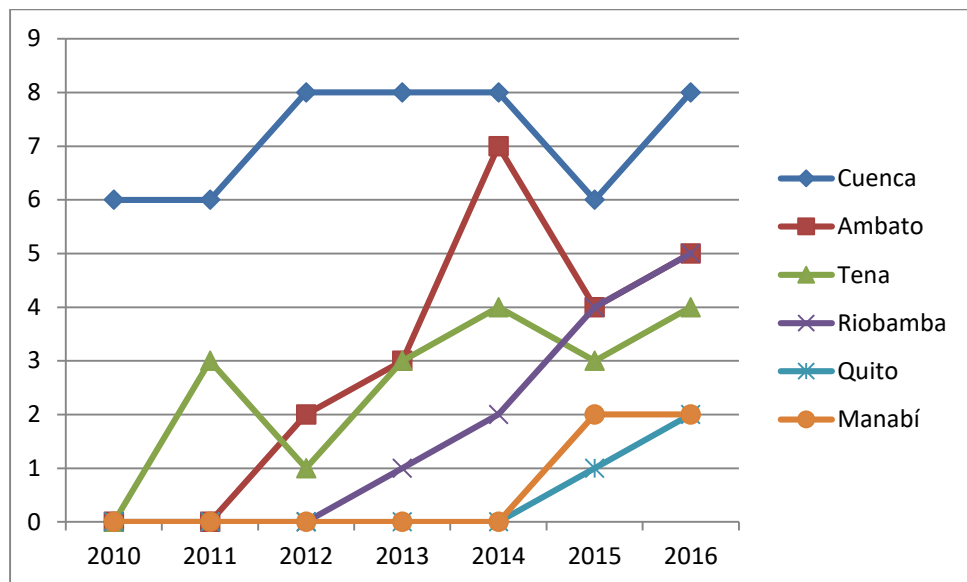


Figure 8: Annual Variation of Volunteers in Ecuadorian Cities. Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (May 16, 2016).

This graph analyzes how the annual variations in the influx of volunteers in the cities of Ecuador have been, what can be observed is that in some cities the number of volunteers has maintained while in others this number has increased.

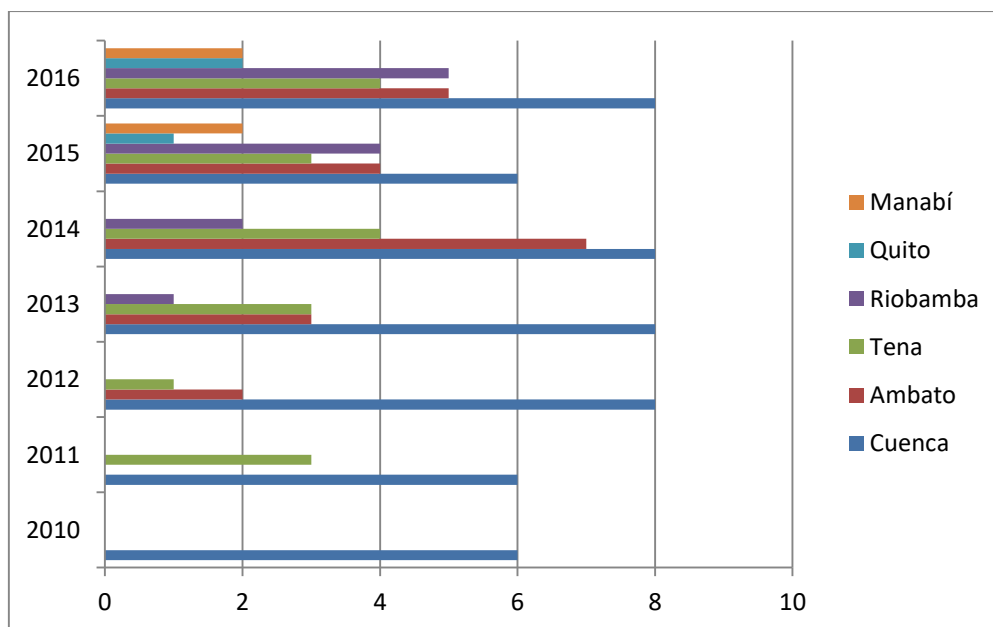


Figure 9: Number of Volunteers per Year. Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (May 16, 2016).

This graph also shows how the participation of young volunteers in the cities of Ecuador has varied, with Cuenca being the city with the highest number of volunteers per year.

On the other hand, it is very important to highlight which are the host organizations in which each young person carries out their project during the whole year of volunteering. The following table indicates which host organizations collaborate with the Social Pastoral of Cuenca to host German volunteers.

Table 6

Host Organizations that collaborate with Cáritas Cuenca-Ecuador

Number of Volunteers in Host Organizations 2010-2016							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1 SJ. Calasanz	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
2 CIELALT	0	1	1	1	2	1	0
3 C. María Amor	3	2	2	0	2	0	0
4 Pastoral Social	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
5 S. Cristóbal	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
6 Zhiña	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
7 Pijilí	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Nova	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
9 Voluntariado PS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10 Sigsig	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
11 Saraguro	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
12 Chordeleg	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
13 Somos Familia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
14 Tadeo Torres	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15 María Reina de la Paz	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
16 Nova	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total	6	6	8	8	8	6	8

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (May 16, 2016).

In this table, the 16 host organizations can be observed, which have collaborated with the Social Pastoral of Cuenca-Ecuador, to welcome volunteers each year. A total of 15 organizations are located within the province of Azuay, while the city of Saraguro is in the province of Loja.

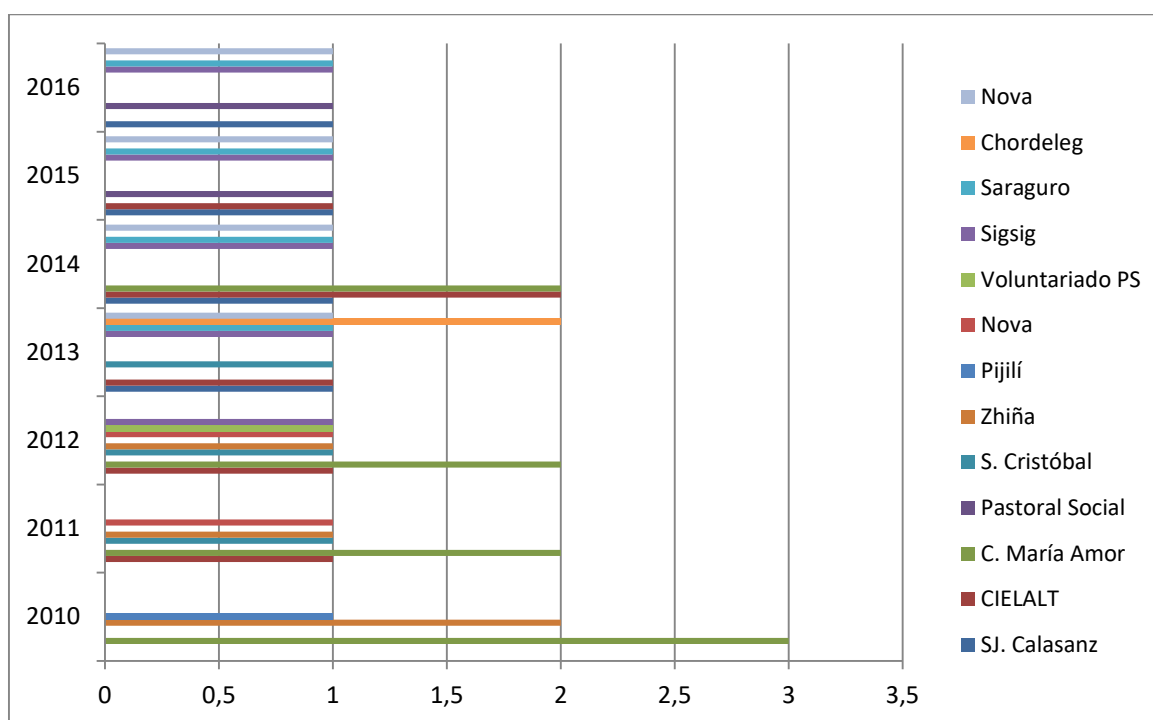


Figure 10: Cities of Host Organizations. Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (May 16, 2016).

The graph shows how many volunteers have collaborated each year in each of the host organizations. As a result, in 2010, 2011 and 2012 there was more volunteer participation in the María Amor house, in 2013 in Chordeleg, in the 2014 in the CIELALT and María Amor organizations, and in 2015 and 2016 there was equal participation without any variations.

In the case of the South-North program, one cannot appreciate a considerable variation, since in September of 2015 two young Ecuadorians from Cañar and Cuenca traveled to Germany to carry out their volunteering for a year. On the other hand, for September 2016 it was planned that this time two young people from Cuenca were the ones who would have the opportunity to volunteer.

Table 7

Volunteers in Germany 2015-2016

South-North Program 2015-2016		
Germany- Ecuador		
Cities	Years	
	2015	2016
Cuenca	1	2

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (May 16, 2016).

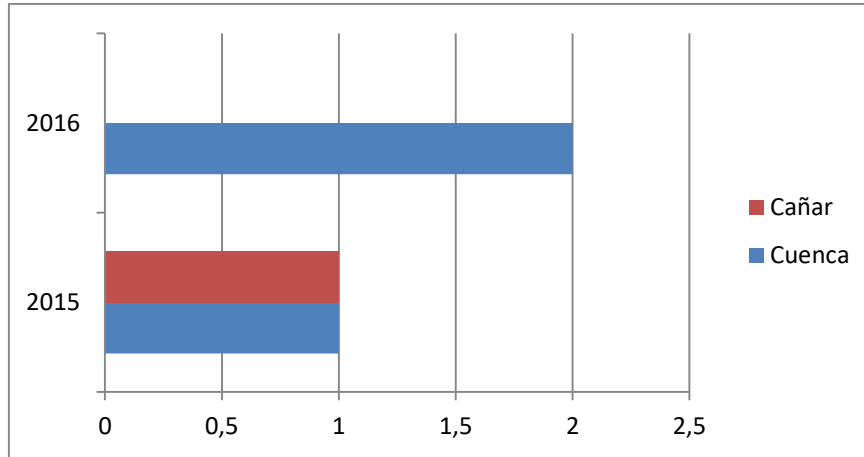


Figure 11: Volunteers in Germany 2015-2016. Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (May 16, 2016).

This graph shows the greater participation of young volunteers from Cuenca to carry out their volunteering, with a total of three people during the years 2015 and 2016.

It also analyzes the organizations that young volunteers worked with throughout their year. These organizations have varied, since they always choose different places, so that each volunteer can develop freely to demonstrate their skills.

Table 8

Host Organizations North-South Program

Volunteers by Host Organization		
Organizations	Years	
	2015	2016
Abendteuerspieleplatz	1	
Jugendfarm	1	
Regnitzwerkstätten		1
Internatsdorf Haubinda		1

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (May 16, 2016).

Finally, the cities in Bavaria-Germany are where the young people volunteer, Erlangen being the most popular destination, considering that there are more host organizations.

Table 9
German cities for volunteering

Volunteers in cities of Bavaria-Germany		
Cities	Years	
	2015	2016
Erlangen	2	1
Würzburg		1

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (May 16, 2016).

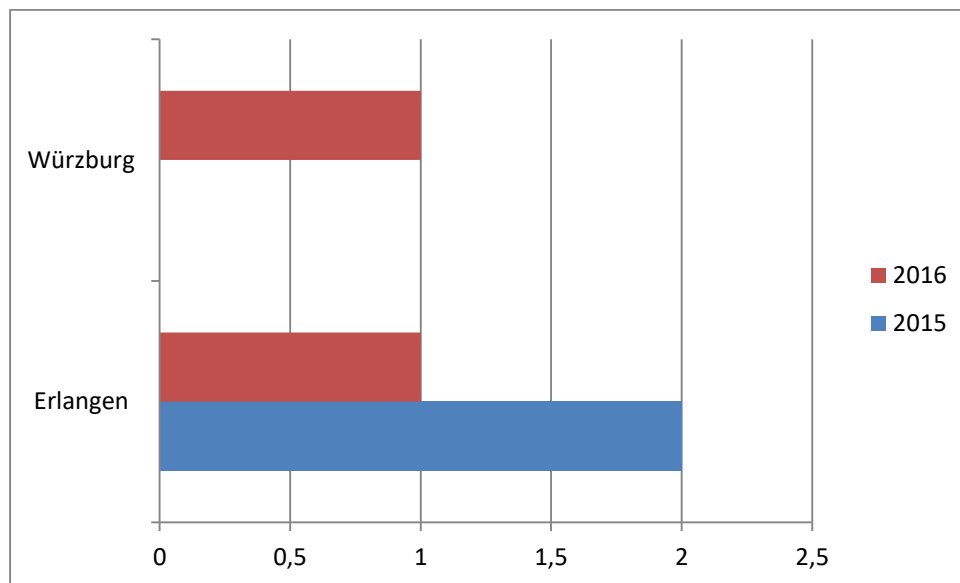


Figure 12: German cities where volunteering takes place. ..Based on Vintimilla, J, personal communication (May 16, 2016).

As is seen in both the North-South and South-North programs, host organizations are of the utmost importance, as they determine where the host family should be searched for so that the volunteer can be established during the volunteering period either in Germany or in Ecuador.

2.4 Characteristic in volunteering social service

Based on the study carried out, the service provided during volunteering is different in both Ecuador and Germany. This is due to the number of people who carry it out and the host organizations that have an agreement with both the *Internationaler Bund* and The Social Pastoral.

In Ecuador, organizations that receive volunteers from Germany are mainly characterized by working with children within schools or child development centers where various activities are carried out such as teaching English or collaborating as a teaching assistant. On the other hand, there are organizations, although in a smaller number, that welcome volunteers to collaborate with older adults and women who suffer from family violence. An example of these host organizations is Casa María Amor, located in Cuenca-Ecuador that is in charge of sheltering mothers and their children who suffer from family violence.

Through the collaboration of volunteers, children can be encouraged to try to lead a normal life by controlling and supporting their daily school tasks, playing games, music workshops, dancing, crafts, among other activities. In this way, children can cope with problems, which many times affect them in their personal or social life since they are so young. In addition, there are other representative organizations such as Tadeo Torres, who work with older adults or Nova, which is responsible for the care of young children, among other activities.

Ecuadorian organizations welcome volunteers in a very effective way, especially in the last few years where some families have received two volunteers, which is very favorable since it gives more young people the opportunity to travel to Ecuador since there are a greater number of places of work.

The young volunteers who come to Ecuador, experience interculturalism since Ecuador is a multi-ethnic country and young people can discover the different cultures of the four regions that are there: coast, sierra, Amazon, and the Galapagos island region. In this way, the best features of the different parts of the territory can be better understood.

On the other hand, since Germany is a country in which the South-North exchange program has recently been carried out, there is not a large number of host organizations that have established an agreement with *Internationaler Bund*. However, those that have been established are of great importance, since they permit a clear cultural exchange.

Due to Germany's economic stability and high quality of life, it has a large number of immigrants, which has allowed its society to be multiracial and multicultural, so that local and foreign people can experience this cultural interrelationship daily.

The host organizations that currently receive Ecuadorian volunteers are linked to the care and education of children and young people. These institutions are multicultural due to the large number of families who have come from Syria, Iraq, India and Iran as refugees because of the conflicts that are going on in the Middle East. The working groups are always very diverse and it is very interesting to share and learn about various customs and different ways of life of people from other countries.

Generally, the tasks that the volunteers carry out include being basic Spanish teachers or teachers' helpers within schools. On the other hand, outdoor activities such as building, playing or walking in the surrounding area are usually organized so that children can develop their intellect, motivating for them to use their imagination and creativity.

Based on my personal experience, working in *Abendteuerspieleplatz*, a recreational game center that works in the afternoons was very unique and motivating since I was able to spend time with children from different cultures from Middle Eastern countries, Germany, Russia and France. Although it was difficult to communicate because of different languages spoken, this motivated me to learn and at the same time teach Spanish, English and basic German to those children who had recently been resettled in the city of Erlangen-Germany.

Social service tasks are of great importance within volunteering since, in addition to being the true meaning of carrying them out, they are the ones that allow the young volunteers to relate to other cultures and learn from them, so that they can understand some everyday situations, which many times, are not understood because of misconceptions. Cultural interrelationships and social volunteering allows us to expand

our view of the world and raise awareness of the different reality in which we and other people live daily.

2.5 Process of Cultural Adaptation and Interculturality that a Volunteer Experiences

Living a volunteering experience in a place other than where a person grows up in is a situation that entails a certain period of time to adapt to the new environment, lifestyle, customs or common traditions. In the process of cultural adaptation, it is difficult to define how much time is required to achieve it, since each person is different and the circumstances involved can also influence this process.

One of the problems that does not allow cultural adaptation is considered cultural shock¹², which includes feelings of nervousness, confusion, sadness or anxiety that a person can feel when leaving their familiar environment to live in another one that is completely different.

During the volunteering period, the adaptation process can be related to a roller coaster, where there are always ups and downs depending on the situations experienced. The following graph will show this relationship.

¹² Psychohealthservices, C.(2007). *Adaptación Cultural*. Recovered May 5, 2015 by http://www.psychohealthservices.com/adaptacion_cultural.html

Figure No 13
Cultural Adaption Roller Coaster

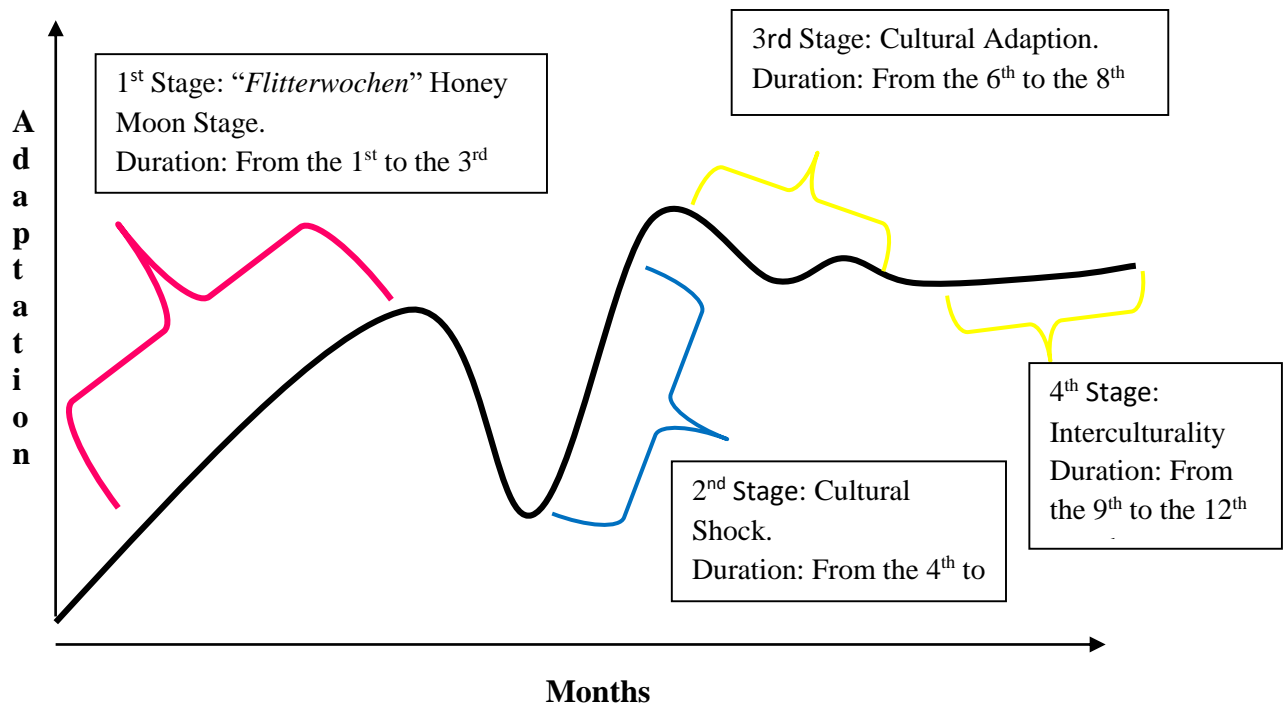


Figure 13, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Cultural Adaption Roller Coaster. Based on Vintimilla, J. (personal communication, 16 May 2016).

As can be seen in the graph, the process of cultural adaptation is made up of several stages that calculates how long each stage lasts for during the 12 months of the year.

The first stage "*Flitterwochen*" or Honeymoon stage, consists of a period of time where the volunteer enjoys the experimentation of new things in a different place. In this stage, the person appreciates the new changes such as trying different flavors, learning a new language, new customs, friendly relations, among others. This stage can be perceived during the first months that a person is out of their comfort zone.

The second stage is Cultural Shock, which is when the person begins to realize that the new culture is very different from the one that person is accustomed to. This is when a person begins to create feelings of anguish, loneliness or sadness. The person refuses to continue in their new reality and chooses to move away and not to relate with their new surroundings.

The third stage is cultural adaptation, which occurs once a person has suffered the process of cultural shock and begins to perceive the new habits that they have adapted to and the new environment they have developed in this new culture. As a result, the person gradually adapts and decides to integrate as part of society.

The fourth stage is Interculturality. During this stage it is difficult to establish a specific term to explain how this process of adaptation to a new culture works, nevertheless we talk about the interculturality, which according to María José Pérez (2011), refers to a process where the coexistence of different cultures which influence a person in the same way, exchange knowledge and coexist. This term is considered a clear concept to explain how to continue with the process of adaptation when dealing with another culture.

However as a comment, we have been thinking about what would happen if we talked about a possible reconfiguration of identity due to the influence of one culture over another. As a result of this interaction, one can create a dominant and a dominated culture or can there be a distancing of the culture itself? Could this be considered possible?

Many answers can arise from questions we have asked, and according to the author Andrés Fabregas (2012), when talking about this new process that arises from the interaction of cultures, this is known by the name of acculturation. According to his criterion, this term is the interrelationship between different cultures that tends to begin with a process of assimilation that is shaped over time and ends up dominating the culture that had previously been fully established, in a way that a new culture is created.

When referring to this problem of loss of identity, we realize that the term "acculturation" has been controversial, since to a certain extent it can be considered as a process in which two cultural groups reach a point of full coexistence through a balanced environment. Nevertheless, according to María José Pérez, she argues that "Acculturation leads to the acquisition of new cultural patterns by one or both cultural groups, with the adoption of part or all of the culture of the other group" (2011). This leads us to think about how beneficial acculturation can be and what its consequences will be.

On the other hand, it must be taken into account that each person lives a different reality, so a judgment of value cannot be made when arguing whether acculturation is positive or negative. However, its development can be limited to a certain point until it is convenient, since the most important thing is to find a balance and to promote a horizontal development of the cultures involved.

When immersed in a multicultural - cultural environment, the individual will be in the situation of looking for the best way to adapt, which will always vary due to the influence of the environment where one is and the ability to adapt to the unknown. In this way, it is explained how some individuals can adapt to an environment without major problem, while others require a considerable time to achieve it.

The process of cultural adaptation¹³ determines that when a person is in a different place, they are forced to adapt to the new culture because the environment creates some degree of pressure to oppress his own culture. However, the behavior and authenticity of an individual is the essence that will always accompany a person regardless of where that person is. This can be considered as the personal culture that each person creates during their entire lives, which is why it is important from them to always to be true to it.

On the other hand, on the subject of volunteering, it is considered pertinent that both the German *Internationaler Bund* and the Social Ministry of Ecuador seek a favorable way to analyze the impact that people have when they encounter and try to adapt to another culture. This way, young volunteers will not be not pressured or overwhelmed by changes in their environment, but instead they will be prepared to act correctly when it is necessary.

2.5.1 Cultural Features: Ecuador and Germany

In both Ecuador and in Germany there are very diverse cultural characteristics, due to the way of behavior and reaction of its inhabitants to everyday situations. This depends

¹³ Psychohealthservices, C. (2007). *¿Cuáles son las causas del shock cultural?* Recovered May 5, 2015 by http://www.psychohealthservices.com/adaptacion_cultural.html

a lot on various factors such as geographical location, climate, religion and others. However, such characteristics are what makes them special and authentic because of their great diversity. Below is a chart with some peculiarities of each culture

Table 10
Cultural characteristics Germany-Ecuador

Cultural Characteristics		
	Ecuador	Germany
Food	3 hot meals	1 hot meal + 2 cold meals
Vestiment	People wear colorful clothing.	People wear neutral color clothing.
	They follow fashion trends.	They try to avoid brands
Punctuality	Unpunctual	Punctual
Greeting	A hug or a kiss on the cheek	Slight handshake
		There is physical distance
Interaction with their social group	There is no physical distance when talking to another person	when talking to another person
	They are spontaneous	Scheduled activities
	Better family relationships	Weaker family relationships
Personal life	They become independent from their family when they get married or have a union of fact relationship	They become independent from their family when they begin the University
	They are individualistic at work	They are Gregarian at work
Professional life	They work 40 hours a week	They work 35 to 40 hours a week

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Based on Luciano, P “*Diferencias Culturales entre Países*” (2010), and Mattejat S, personal communication (28 May, 2016).

In the previous table, the cultural differences between Germany and Ecuador are analyzed in different everyday situations, which results in understanding that adapting to one of these environments requires time and attitude to learn. In both cultures, there are differences, which may seem strange to some people, however they make a culture interesting, and even more so, authentic.

CHAPTER III

EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ECUADORIANS, PROMOTED BY THE GERMAN INTERNATIONAL BUND ORGANIZATION, THROUGH IB VAP FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS

INTRODUCTION

Through research carried out during this assignment based on the importance of international cooperation through volunteering, the exchange programs established between Ecuador and Germany, and the value of social service that fosters cultural interrelation and learning, the analysis of all the proposals of the South-North volunteer program possible, in order to discover the best advantages.

After carrying out this analysis and obtaining positive results, this chapter presents the proposal of a volunteer program for young Ecuadorians to be held in Germany but that lasts only six months, which is considered an appropriate and favorable period of time. The arguments that support this statement are presented below.

3.1 South-North Volunteering Program between Ecuador and Germany for a period of six months.

Volunteering Structure

As in the South-North volunteer program established for one year, it is necessary to have a support structure for the volunteer during the months that that person will work in Germany for. This will be based on four important pillars, this time counting on the accompaniment of the host organization and its support, which will be of great importance for the work of the volunteer during this short period of time, to benefit both the volunteer and the organization.

Figure No 14

Volunteer South-North Program Structure (6-months period)

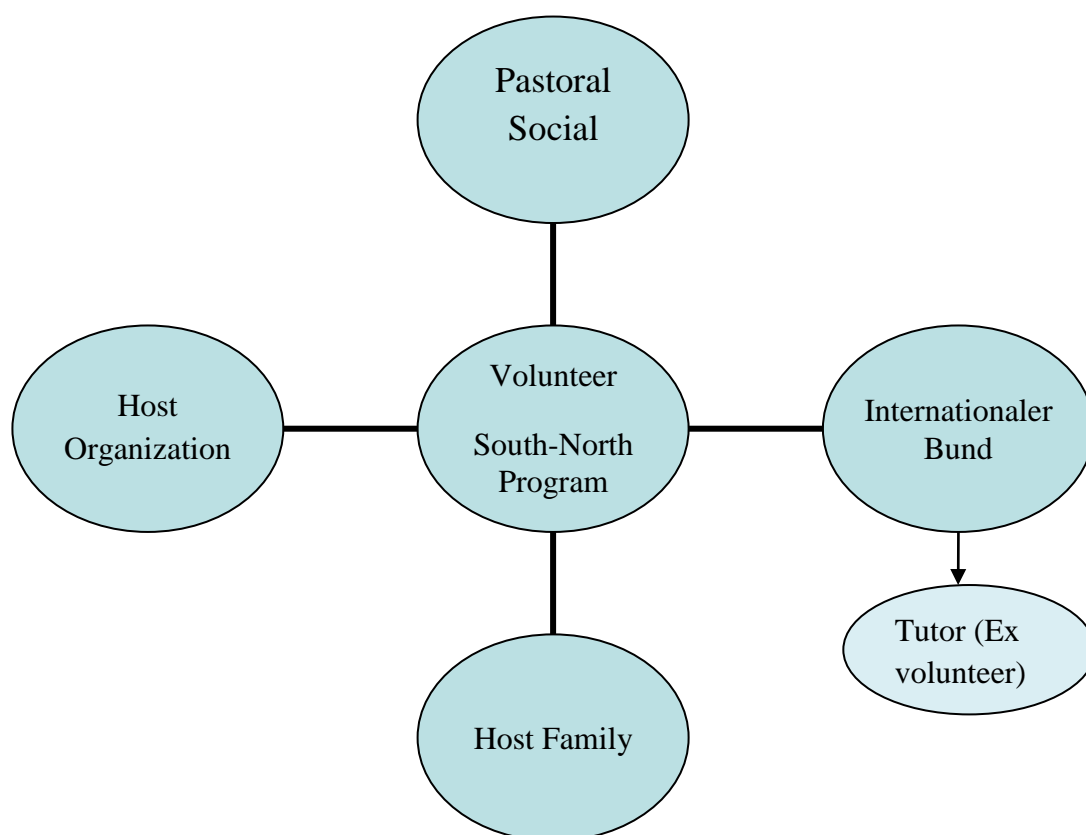


Figure 14, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Volunteer South-North Program Structure. Programa Sur-Norte. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 23). Volunteer Service in Germany. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Ecuador. IB VAP material

Selection Process

Young applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 will have the opportunity to volunteer for a period of six months in Germany and must present the respective personal documents to the Pastoral Social of Cuenca-Ecuador.

The opportunity will be given to young people who are between these ages, since after high school, these six months can be considered as a possibility to get to know the world that exists beyond the borders. An experience like this also helps to make

decisions for someone's personal and professional life, providing their support, knowledge and cultural qualities in a host organization in this country.

The following table specifies how the selection and preparation of future volunteers will be carried out, so that the Social Pastoral will be in charge of its implementation six months before the trip to Germany.

Table 11
Volunteer South-North Program for a period of 6 months

SELECTION AND PREPARATION OF VOLUNTEERS		
Month	Activity	Person in Charge
October	People interested in the program can apply through by handing in all of their documents in the Office of the Social Pastoral.	Social Pastoral
November	6 to 10 folders (later translated into German) will be selected and will be sent to host organizations in Germany who will choose their volunteers.	Social Pastoral
January	In approximately the second week of January the young applicants will know who was chosen for the volunteering program via e-mail.	Social Pastoral
February	The young people selected must take a course in German and begin the procedures of the visa	Selected Volunteer

March-July	A preparation process will be carried out through monthly meetings	Social Pastoral, former volunteers, Skype meetings with the IB, contact with the Host Organizations and Host Families.
August	Preparation Seminar	Social Pastoral
September	Two Young volunteers are sent	Social Pastoral

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Selection and Preparation Of Volunteers: South-North Program. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 23). Volunteer Service in Germany. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Ecuador .Material of IB VAP.

The invitation for young people wishing to volunteer will be made in the Social Pastoral, Youth Ministry and University Pastoral Cuenca-Ecuador. This will be made known through talks and seminars in each organization where the value of volunteering and its generalities will be explained.

On the other hand, it will be possible to promote the program on the radio since the Social Pastoral has the collaboration of the Young Tuning program of the Catholic Radio of Cuenca.

Posters and flyers will be made that will be delivered to each of the places mentioned previously.

Place in which the Volunteering will be developed.

Following the agreement between Social Pastoral and *Internationaler Bund*, volunteering will take place in the region of Bavaria - Germany, since the IB VAP program works in this region and has agreements with host organizations, which allows the volunteer to develop their work in these establishments during the six months.

Accommodation

The volunteer will have the opportunity to live with a foster family during the six months. The first two months will be considered as a trial period, in case the volunteer

or the family do not feel at ease, it will be possible to change families so that both the volunteer and the family feels comfortable.

Food

Food will be offered by the host family, who will be paid € 150 per month. Additionally, the volunteer will have pocket money for any extra expenses.

Seminars

During the six-month period, four seminars will be held for volunteers, both in Germany and in Ecuador.

Figure No 15

Seminars of the South-North Volunteer Program for the six-month period

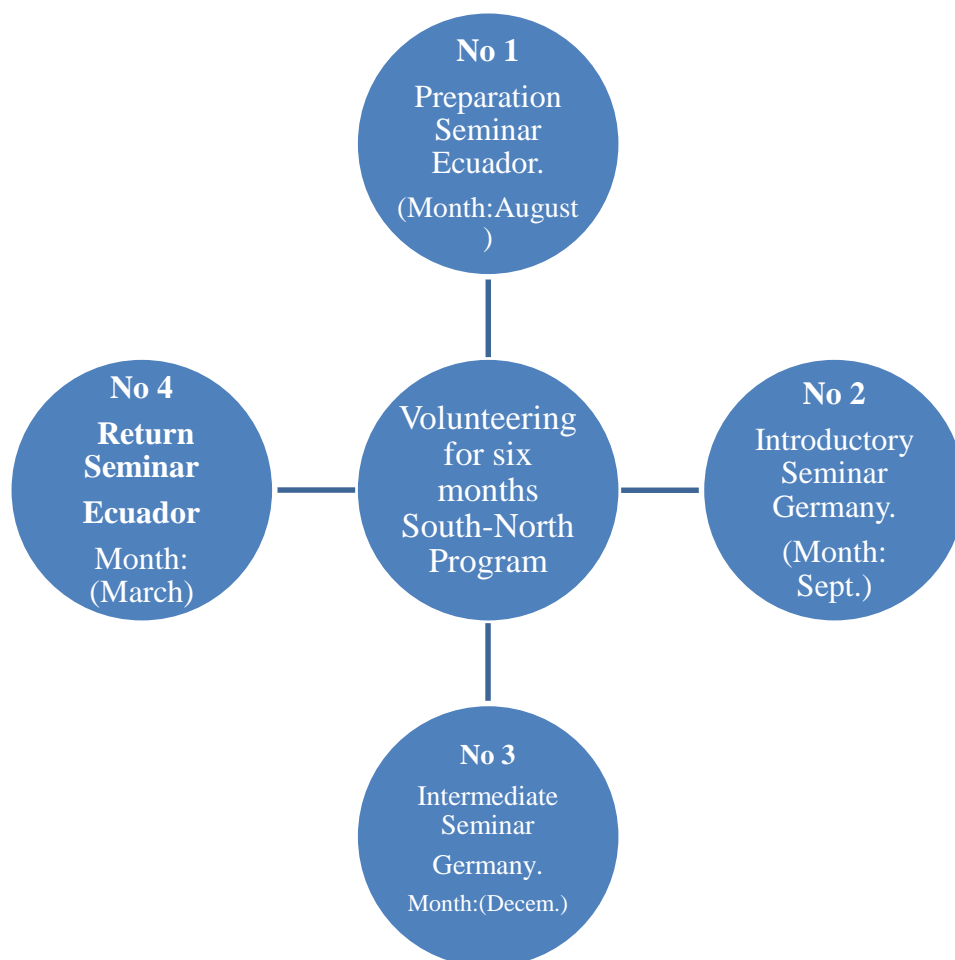


Figure 15, Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Selection And Preparation Of Volunteers: South-North Program. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 23). Volunteer Service in Germany. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Ecuador .Material of IB VAP.

Financing

Funding for the South-North program for the six-month period will be carried out through the programs *Internationaler Jugendfreiwilligendienst IJFD* - International Voluntary Service for Youth and *Weltwärts* voluntary service for development in Germany which are supported by the *Das Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)* - Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. As a result, by counting on the economic income of this ministry, it will be possible to support the young Ecuadorians so that they can carry out their volunteering in Germany.

The Internationaler Bund has an economic structure, which indicates that the volunteer will contribute only 5% of the total cost of volunteering.

Figure No 16

Financing of the South-North Volunteer Program for the 6-month period

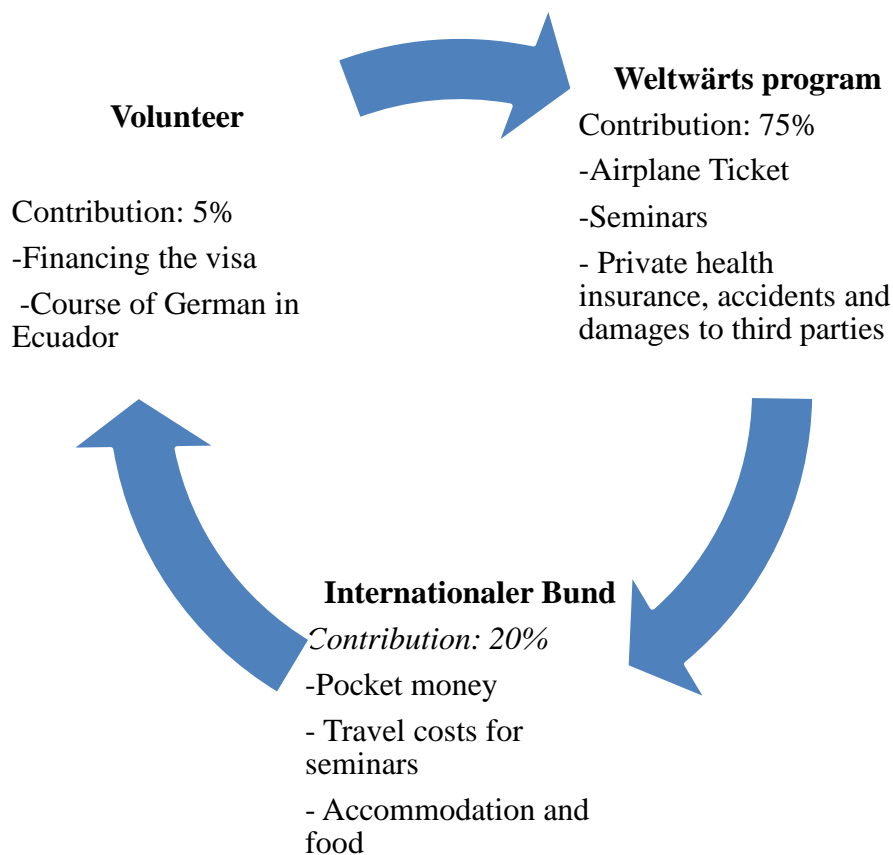


Figure 16. Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Financing of the South-North Volunteer Program for the 6-month

period. Based on Vintimilla, J. (2016, May, 23). Volunteer Service in Germany. (Power Point slides). Presentation for Ecuador. Material of IB VAP.

3.2 Volunteer Preparation Before and After the Trip

Before starting a volunteer abroad, previous preparation is considered necessary that the person obtains knowledge that allows them to fully apply themselves in the activities that they are going to develop. On the other hand, preparation is also needed when returning to the country of origin, since a person can experience many changes that can affect their emotional stability that they were previously accustomed to.

The seminars seek to highlight that there are many factors that will intervene in the achievement of the objectives set, either by various personal circumstances or the environment, which is why it is suggested to take into account some important issues that can be addressed in the Seminars in Ecuador, either before volunteering or when returning to the country.

Introductory Seminar

This seminar considers dialogue on very important issues which are necessary to deal with before the trip, so that the future volunteer is aware of the situations that may happen at some point during their volunteering process.

Table No 12
Topics of Introductory Seminar

Introductory Seminar	
Topics	Points to discuss
Culture in Germany	Language
	Clothing
	Customs
	Food
Personal relationships and behavior	Family
	Work
	Friends
Emotions	Loneliness

	How to face loneliness
	Feelings of estrangement
Emotional Support	Search for groups that carry out various activities
	Church (in the case that the person practices a religion)
	Recreational activities
Leisure	Traveling
	Traveler Tips

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Topics of Introductory Seminar: South-North Program.

Return Seminar

For the return to Ecuador seminar, it is important to take into account that the volunteer has new perspectives on different aspects, whether its their personal, family or professional life, but above all, what volunteering really means. For this reason, referring to certain subjects, which are presented below, could be very helpful to find a place within the culture of origin again.

Table No 13
Return Seminar Topics

Return Seminar	
Topics	Points to Discuss
Volunteering	Experiences learned with: the host organization and family
	Personal contributions within: the host organization and family
	Learning
Personal Life	Feelings that arise when returning to the country
	New experiences = New knowledge

Goals to be fulfilled

Ways to share	Social Pastoral
what was	Family
learned	Social Environment

Created by Mariuxi Ortiz. Topics of Introductory Seminar: South-North Program.

The topics mentioned can be considered relevant because when going through experiences such as traveling to an unknown country, adapting to a new culture or facing different cultural changes, one will always have different reactions and it will be special for each person due to their different ways of thinking and feelings. On the other hand, the seminars that will be carried out in Germany will have other topics to discuss. These will be chosen exclusively by the *Internationaler Bund* where specific points of interest will be sought for young volunteers from other countries.

3.3 Preparing the Environment in the Volunteering Destination Country

In order for a young person to volunteer abroad, time and logistics are required to make it possible, since a host family must be found with which the volunteer will remain during his or her stay in Germany and also an agreement with a host organization should be created to carry out the volunteer work.

It is necessary to take into account that volunteering is handled in a quadrangular relationship. These parts include: the volunteer, the host family, the Social Pastoral and the host organization. It is required that all part be prepared to receive the new volunteer, otherwise, the relationship between the parties will not function and the volunteer will not be able to reach their objectives. For this reason, the following characteristics should be taken into account.

Host Families:

The Family should have contact with the volunteer through social media a few months before the trip, either via skype, mails, facebook or other social networks, so that a friendly relationship can be created, where the parties become familiar and share their characteristics, personalities or tastes. On the other hand, the family should also have the knowledge that the volunteer will become a part of their family during the period of time that the volunteer performs their services within the host organization, so that the family relationship grows in harmony for both parties.

The family will be paid a monthly fee of 150 euros each month, in order to cover the cost of food and accommodation.

In the event that the family does not feel comfortable with the volunteer or the volunteer with the host family, both will have the opportunity to change the situation by talking with the IB VAP organization in order to find the best solution.

Host Organization

The host organization must have the same contact with the volunteer through social media, so that there is interaction prior to the volunteering process.

Both the volunteer and the organization must know what tasks and obligations the volunteer is going to carry out, so that false expectations about the work that will be done are not created.

The organization will be responsible for taking care of the well-being of the volunteer during the volunteers work inside its facilities. On the other hand, the organization must designate a guide for the volunteer, assuming the role of this persons tutor.

It should be taken into account that the volunteer is part of the organization team, however this person should not be considered as an employee, but as one who collaborates within the institution.

The Volunteer

The volunteer should respect the lifestyle and customs that are practiced within the environment where they are.

The volunteer must comply with all legal requirements of the city where they will live in, since they are necessary to ensure an adequate stay that is not against the law.

The volunteer must fulfill the duties and obligations that will be imposed within host organization and one must collaborate with the organization team.

As a part of the host family, the volunteer must respect the rules and customs of the family environment, in order to not go against the family's principles.

These basic principles should be taken into account, so that the four main members who are involved in volunteering can carry out their tasks effectively without a problem. In this way, the fulfillment of the objectives of volunteering can be guaranteed and the results obtained are useful according to the expectations that have been created prior to the accomplishment of this work.

CONCLUSIONS

This research assignment is based on international cooperation through *the Internationaler Bund* organizations in *Nürnberg*-Germany and the Social Pastoral in Cuenca-Ecuador for the development of social service and cultural exchange from 2011 to the first half of 2015. Through this investigation, the value of the existence of cooperating agencies working together to create voluntary programs was able to be determined, but in particular these two organizations that have an agreement since 2004 until now.

This assignment, structured in three chapters, emphasizes the importance of what volunteering means, as a form of international cooperation that focuses on its main objectives in social service. Volunteering is considered to be a very underdeveloped or sometimes unknown subject in Ecuador, but especially in the city of Cuenca. In order to make its development possible, it was based on the research and personal experience during the accomplishment of a volunteer in the city of Erlangen-Germany, for the period of one year and through the collaboration of these two organizations already mentioned.

The first chapter analyzes the value of international cooperation over the years and the acceptance it has acquired according to the needs of the countries. This phenomenon has not been a common issue, but it has developed and fulfills many purposes today. On the other hand, it indicates the importance of volunteering in Ecuador, which has been able to determine that this topic is not widely known and that the objectives it promotes, through service and cultural interrelationship, with its development within or outside the country are very enriching for the personal, emotional or professional life for the volunteers who perform it.

The second chapter determines the agreement of international cooperation through volunteering between the organizations *Internationaler Bund* and Pastoral Social. It explains the operation and the structure that are managed in the North-South and South-North programs. In this way, we analyze the great opportunity that young people have to live the experience of a social volunteer. This is because thanks to the support of these organizations, all the advantages received through this service, which include

learning and collaborating in the environment of a new culture, brings with it a number of ways of acquiring knowledge and seeing reality beyond what that person already knows. This can be accessed thanks to the current technology.

Through an analysis, the selection, preparation and sending of the volunteers from their country of origin is also studied and all the necessary requirements are determined to facilitate their life during the volunteering period. This indicates that the programs offered by both organizations guarantee a good experience and that they will maintain a constant contact of accompaniment with each young volunteer. It should be noted that due to the importance of the data obtained, the year 2010 was taken as a reference point for initiating this research, and thanks to the postponement granted by the University of Azuay for the completion of this investigative work, it was necessary to consider updated data until the year 2016.

On the other hand, it can be deduced that when in an unknown place, surrounded by a different culture, each young volunteer experiences their own process of adaptation and cultural exchange in a different way. This is why a specific period of time in which a person feels "part of" their environment cannot be established, but rather the mechanisms necessary to achieve it can be determined. In addition, it was concluded that cultural adaptation cannot be determined as synonymous with a process of acculturation. This can be considered as a complex subject that deserves to be taken into account for other extensions to this proposal, due to the controversial points that it sustains.

In the third chapter, throughout the entire analysis of the volunteer programs by determining their main characteristics and based on the experience of having volunteered in Germany, a new South-North volunteer program is proposed for a period of six months. This program differs only in the period of time of the volunteering, but presents all of the same advantages for a volunteer, in both professional and personal aspects.

Finally, it can be understood that social volunteering is of great importance within an organization, due to the great personal and social benefits that the parties obtain. However, this service is often carried out in a silent way, when in reality the opposite

should happen, since it is an activity worthy of being congratulated and supported. As a result, more young people will have the opportunity to live this great learning experience that will be useful for themselves, while collaborating with those who need it most and connecting with new cultures.

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ANNEX INDEX

ANNEX 1: INTERVIEW ON CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

GERMANY-ECUADOR

1. What is the food like in Germany?
2. How do people prefer to dress in Germany?
3. What do you consider to be the best way to learn the language?
4. How are friendly relationships handled?
5. How easy is to have contact with another person?
6. How do you greet someone else?
7. Until what age is it considered normal for a young person to stay with their family?
8. Is a specific period of free time dedicated to the family?
9. How are labor relations handled?
10. How punctual are people in Germany?

ANNEX 2

INTERVIEW ON THE SOUTH-NORTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

1. In what year did the South-North Exchange program with Ecuador begin?
2. Who is in charge of directing the South-North program within the Social Pastoral?
3. What are the necessary requirements to volunteer?
4. How are travel costs handled for the volunteer?
5. How is the volunteer program managed? Work place, food, lodging, monthly money.
6. How many young people from Ecuador have gone and are currently volunteers in 2015 and 2016?
7. From what cities are the Young Ecuadorian Volunteers from?
8. In which organizations do young volunteers collaborate with?
9. In which cities in Germany are the organizations of each volunteer located?
10. How many seminars are held each year and where are they held?

ANNEX 3:

INTERVIEW ON THE NORTH-SOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

1. In what year did the North-South exchange volunteer begin with Ecuador?
2. Who is in charge of running the North-South program within the IB VAP?
3. What are the volunteer requirements?
4. How are travel costs handled for the volunteer?
5. How is the volunteer program managed? Work place, food, lodging, monthly money.
6. How many young people from Germany were and are volunteers in 2011 until 2016?
7. In which Ecuadorian cities do young volunteers from Germany volunteer in?
8. Which Ecuadorian organizations do volunteers work with?
9. How many seminars are held each year and where are they held?