

OPERATION DAGSVÆRK IS LOOKING FOR OUR NEXT PARTNERSHIP

Each year Operation Dagsværk (OD) starts a new partnership to create a campaign in Denmark and support the partner(s)' work. The partnership needs to include a civil society organisation in Denmark and one or more civil society organisations somewhere else in the world. OD wishes to partner with organisations to support work rooted in young people's own vision and ideas, supporting how the youth is already organizing, offering opportunities for youth to participate broadly, building on local knowledge, solutions and analysis, and sustainable work contributing to long-term change. OD's partnership builds on creating relations among youth across borders and building solidarity between young people in the face of the many global crises our generation are conditioned by. OD offers the opportunity to create a unique campaign based on the co-creation of youth which will broadly reach the youth in Denmark at the member schools of OD, and for Danish students to take action and raise funds to support the work of the partners.

To propose a partnership with OD the Danish civil society organisation needs to write a proposal (in Danish) explaining about the partners and the work the fundraising will support.

Operation Dagsværk and our global partnerships for solidarity

Since the 1960's Operation Dagsværk has collaborated with youth around the world to make information and engagement campaigns with and for the students in Denmark, and solidarity projects supporting the work of our partners.

Each year the students select a new partnership to campaign for - the partnerships are always made up of OD, a Danish partner organisation and one or more local partners. The campaigns are created and unfold throughout 10 months culminating in the annual OD-Action Day where the Danish students work for a day, instead of going to school, and the wages they earn are collected and donated to support the work of our international partner. OD is a student movement made up of several volunteer groups: in the active schools around Denmark we have groups of students who mobilise their fellow students; in the secretariat we have 5-10 full time volunteers who are part of co-creating the campaign.

We are rooted in a strong belief in young people's hope for and action towards a more equal, just and peaceful world. We strive to build equal collaborations with our international partners based on local and youth-led methods and analysis with respect for their agency and knowledge. Through the work in the partnerships we create opportunities for cross-border meetings and exchange between Danish youth and young people from partner countries - and they collectively create the campaign for the Danish students to encourage them to work on the annual OD-Action Day.

The partnership cycle

Partnership selection

The process of applying for partnership and funds from OD is a bit different than other donors. As we are a student movement, it is the students who decide what we want to support. This means the process is a bit longer, but even if your proposal for partnership is not chosen the students have still been presented to your organisations and the work you are doing. The partnership selection is done in two rounds – the first round is for the active groups of students, here the incoming proposals for partnership are narrowed down to three; the second round is for all the students at the schools and where the final selection of partner organisations for the following year is made.

The campaign year

Throughout this year the volunteers from OD and youth from the local partner co-create the information and engagement campaign. This is done through exchange visits where different materials like films, posters, stickers, SoMe content, knowledge resources, a presentation and more are developed. Normally during the spring, the OD team and Danish partner will visit the local partner, as the focus of this trip is to produce information material and visual material about the context and work of the local partner. During the fall youth from the partner organization will normally visit Denmark as this is the time where the campaign is spread to the students and the youth from the partner organisation is part of visiting the schools and explaining their work and why it is important. It is also during the fall that the action day takes place in November. However, the specific timing of exchange visits and how many of them is decided between the partners for each campaign. Apart from the exchange visits, the collaboration of the youth will also be done through online meetings, where they can come up with smaller events and initiatives to be included in the campaign.

After the action day and continued collaboration

After the OD-Action Day the collaboration continues while the money earned is used to support the work of the local partner and implement their activities. Throughout this process the youth will continue having online meetings and create initiatives in Denmark to amplify the voices and share the work of the partner organisations – however at a different scale than the campaign, as ODs volunteer group will no longer be full time. The exact roles of the different organisations in the partnership will be decided to fit with the existing work and collaboration of the Danish and local partner to include OD and the volunteers, and the time frame will also be decided depending on the amount of collected funds and workflow of the local partner. It is also usual that additional visits are planned throughout this time.