Yao Sodjadan

Entrepreneurship Adviser and Project Management Professional

Kisumu, Kenya | +49 162 5953730 | yaosodjadan@gmx.de

Professional profile

Development cooperation professional with experience in entrepreneurship, vocational education, project coordination and business consulting. Supports TVET institutions in Kenya to connect practical skills training with enterprise creation, market opportunities and sustainable livelihoods. Combines programme delivery, trainer capacity building and stakeholder engagement with multilingual communication and research skills.

Professional experience

Technical Adviser for Entrepreneurship and Project Management

Comundo — CoVEx Programme, Kenya | 04/2025 – Ongoing

- Develop and integrate practical entrepreneurship training into TVET programmes in Kilifi, Kisumu and Laikipia counties, including training materials, trainer capacity building and coaching.
- Support the establishment and development of enterprise clubs and incubation activities, guiding trainees through business ideation, market validation, costing, pricing and enterprise development.
- Coordinate project planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting with TVET institutions and county partners, tracking progress, documenting lessons and supporting continuous improvement.
- Build partnerships with county governments, businesses, alumni and development organisations to strengthen mentorship, market access, resource mobilisation and the sustainability of entrepreneurship initiatives.

Project Manager and Administrative Support

Engagement Global gGmbH — Service Agency Communities in One World, Bonn, Germany | 07/2024 – 3/2025

- Organised national events, trade fairs, workshops and working meetings, including preparation and follow-up.
- Supported procurement and tender processes and initiatives engaging German municipalities in development cooperation.
- Handled enquiries from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and partners; maintained CRM data and supported project administration and quality assurance.

Business Consultant

OpportuniTogo Consulting, Bonn, Germany | 12/2022 – Ongoing

- Provide business startup advice, entrepreneurship coaching and skills development support to business owners in Togo and Benin.

Administrator

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), Bonn, Germany | 03/2023 – 07/2024

- Supported asylum procedures, coordinated appointments and applications, managed documents and files, and handled internal and external communication.

Trainee

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Eschborn, Germany | 06/2022 – 12/2022

- Supported review of project applications, communication, software development and gender, diversity and digital learning activities.
- Helped plan and deliver workshops and develop thematic calls for the WIDU platform, including green business and food security.

Project Assistant

University of Bayreuth — Cluster of Excellence Africa Multiple, Germany | 11/2020 – 02/2022

- Supported the Making a Living research project on vocational education, apprenticeship and entrepreneurship through research, transcription, data analysis, Moodle administration and French, English and German translation.

Communication Officer

Africa Politicum, Bayreuth, Germany | 01/2020 – Ongoing

- Organise and moderate events, coordinate public relations and digital communication, and prepare reports and articles in German, English and French.

Editorial Assistant and Translator

University of Bayreuth — BIGSAS, Germany | 02/2020 – 03/2021

- Translated German and English content into French and edited and proofread articles for The BIGSAS World blog.

Education

MA in African Studies — Development Politics, Sociology and History
University of Bayreuth, Germany | 10/2018 – 11/2021

BA in International Relations
University of Trento, Italy | 09/2011 – 09/2014

BA in Linguistic and Cultural Studies — German Studies
University of Lomé, Togo | 09/2006 – 06/2010

Additional training

Business Consulting — University of Koblenz | 04/2023 – 08/2023

Together against Discrimination and Violence — ZAGD e.V. | 12/2020 – 01/2021

German as a Second Language in Nurseries and Primary Schools — Institute for International Communication and Foreign Cultural Work, Bayreuth | 10/2018

Languages

Mother tongues: Éwé, Ifè and Wudu. French: C2; English, German and Italian: C1 in reading, speaking and writing.

Digital and methodological skills

Microsoft Office and SharePoint; LibreOffice; Google Workspace, Analytics, Ads and Trends; WordPress; CRM; MAXQDA; F4 transcription; Canva; Moodle and eLearning platforms; Teams, Zoom, Webex and other videoconferencing tools; digital research, data collection and qualitative and quantitative analysis; social media marketing; design thinking; Jira, Kanban, Scrum and Asana.

Volunteering and tutoring

City of Bayreuth | 09/2018 – 11/2021: Counselled and mentored asylum seekers and supported German language classes. Kinderschutzbund Bayreuth | 07/2018 – 11/2021: Provided German–Italian interpreting and French, German and Italian tutoring, in person and online.