

On digital change in international youth work (also post-pandemic) Outline and selected outcomes of the study “IJA^{digital} – Internationale Jugendarbeit^{digital}”

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Abstract

This article presents the first results of the scientific monitoring of the digital transformation processes in international youth work by JFF – Institut für Medienpädagogik in Forschung und Praxis. The findings were elaborated in the study “IJA^{digital}”, in which exactly these transformation processes were taken into account over the last two years. The aim of the study is to determine an empirical basis and concrete indications for a digital methodology in international youth work. For this purpose, opportunities and challenges of and in digital projects of international youth work were considered. The focus was on the perspective of practitioners and young people who have carried out or participated in digital projects. They were asked about their experiences with digital projects in the form of individual interviews and group discussions. At the same time, participant observations were made during selected online sessions. One of the key findings of the study is that the potential of digital elements in international youth work has not yet been fully exploited. One example of this is the (new) potential for participation, such as the contribution of media experience and skills by participants. This was only partially realized. At the same time, online-specific challenges were identified, which require appropriate planning of the measures and also qualification of the professional and voluntary facilitators.

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