Child and Youth Policy
Child and Youth Services
in the Federal Republic of Germany
Structures – Institutions – Organisations

IJAB International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany
Child and Youth Policy

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in the

Federal Republic of Germany

Structures – Institutions – Organisations

New edition expanded and updated for 2008

By:
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IJAB
International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany
IJAB – Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V. [IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany] (formerly: International Youth Exchange and Visitors’ Service of the Federal Republic of Germany) works in the fields of international youth work, international youth policy and youth information. The expert agency works on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), its member organisations and other central child and youth service providers.

IJAB’s range of services includes the organisation of worldwide programmes for children and youth service professionals in the context of the bilateral youth policy relations of the Federal Republic of Germany, training and qualification for professionals from a wide spectrum of providers as well as a comprehensive range of information and consultation services on all matters of international youth work.

With its activities, the expert agency wants to make a contribution to the mutual understanding of young people from various countries and cultures, to promote the acquisition of intercultural skills, to support non-formal education processes and to strengthen the international knowledge transfer in the field of child and youth services and child and youth policy.

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NOTES TO THE READER

This publication does not lay claim to completeness. The information provided is based on research and/or data communicated to the authors.

When compiling the addresses and data, the authors relied on information provided by the organisations included in the publication. We accept no responsibility for the correctness of this information.

The ► symbol is used for reference purposes in Part II of this book. It indicates that the association or organisation in question is listed with a complete profile at some other point in this book. The alphabetic directory of associations and institutions at the end of the book enables the reader to quickly find a certain organisation and/or institution.

An online version of the publication is available at the following web site: www.kinder-jugendhilfe.info; access to the database containing the reference section of this book is possible at: www.kinder-jugendhilfe.info/db.
FOREWORD

The children and young people of today will determine our country’s fate tomorrow. Even today, they want a say and should have one. But they need good general conditions so that they may participate effectively. Support for the societal participation of children and young people is therefore an important mission of child and youth policy.

For a considerable time, it has been impossible to confront the social challenges in Germany within our own national borders. Demographic change, generational cohesion, justice for the family or equal opportunities for the younger and the older generations, for men and women – many challenges of the future are global and can be identified across many borders.

This means: the children and young people of today will not only be involved in shaping the future of our country, but they will also be part of the further integration of Europe and a globalised world. Since the initial publication of “Child and Youth Policy, Child and Youth Services in the Federal Republic of Germany” in 2003, many things have changed especially in international cooperation and international exchange – not least because of the youth policy initiatives and achievements of the Germany presidency of the EU Council in the first half of 2007.

I welcome the fact that the most recent youth policy developments are now presented in a revised and extended new edition. Last but not least, the objective of its publication is to introduce the German legislation with relevance for children and youth, as well as its youth policy experiences and structures, into a European and international dialogue and exchange. I would like to thank IJAB, the authors and all child and youth policy partners for their commitment and efforts in realising this project, and I hope that this book will find many keen readers.

Ursula von der Leyen
Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
INTRODUCTION BY THE PUBLISHER

With this edition of “Child and Youth Policy, Child and Youth Services in the Federal Republic of Germany”, IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany presents a new edition of the publication first issued in 2003, of which the content has been revised and extended. It is a basic tool and is intended to assist all child and youth policy players and child and youth services players both in Germany and Europe and worldwide. It is the only publication of this kind which describes the policies with relevance for children and young people of the responsible ministerial departments and provides an overview of all organisations and institutions with nationwide activities.

The introductory part of this publication gives an outline of the most important findings of current youth studies and explains the legislation with relevance for children and young people, as well as the Federal Government’s child and youth policy objectives. As child and youth policy is an inter-ministerial responsibility in Germany’s Federal Government, there is a detailed presentation of the youth policy objectives and actions initiated by the Federal Ministries, while the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth takes centre stage because of its expertise and responsibilities. With its structured reference section, Part II of the book presents the highly diverse and pluralistic spectrum of youth associations, professional organisations, foundations and facilities with nationwide activities in special fields of child and youth services or the overall area of child and youth policy. In a system characterised by partnerships and networking, these associations and institutions play a major role as active advocates of their interests with respect to politicians and as implementing agencies for a wide variety of tasks.

We are happy to contribute to the promotion of youth policy co-operation and professional exchange with this publication. The English edition of this publication will assist our foreign partners to gain an understanding of the complex German system of child and youth services, and will facilitate their professional orientation in the highly diverse system of providers and duties in child and youth policy. This is highly beneficial to our future youth policy co-operation with other countries and to the international exchange of youth policy and youth service professionals and executives.

Marie-Luise Dreber
Director of IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany
PART I
CHILDREN AND YOUTH POLICY
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES
IN THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON GERMANY’S POLITICAL STRUCTURE

The Federal Republic of Germany is a federation which is formed by 16 Federal States (Bundesländer) and has a population of 82 million people. Its constitution, the Basic Law, was promulgated in 1949 and defines five principles for the political order of the state. According to these principles, the Federal Republic of Germany is a republic and a democracy, a federation, a state based on the rule of law and a social welfare state. The federal order is the fundamental principle of public law and the organisation of the Federal Republic of Germany as a state. Human rights and civic rights such as human dignity, freedom of conscience, freedom of expression and freedom of the press, as well as freedom of movement, are inviolable basic rights and at the core of the constitution.

The Basic Law may only be amended with the consent of two-thirds of the members of the German Federal Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag) as well as of two-thirds of the votes in the Federal Council (Bundesrat). Some provisions of the Basic Law may not be amended at all. These constitutional principles include Germany’s structure as a federal state, the separation of powers, the principle of Germany being a democracy, a state based on the rule of law and a social welfare state. Other inviolable principles are the pledge to human dignity and the core equal rights and freedoms enshrined in the Basic Law.

Constitutional Bodies

The Federal Republic of Germany’s head of state is the Federal President (Bundespräsident) who is elected by the Federal Convention (Bundesversammlung) for a term of five years. The Federal President may be re-elected for one further term. Members of the Federal Convention are the members of the Bundestag and an equal number of delegates who are elected by the parliaments of the Federal States.

The German Federal Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag, www.bundestag.de) represents the people of the Federal Republic of Germany and is its primary legislative assembly. As the strongest constitutional body, the Bundestag adopts – among other things – the Acts of Parliament of the Federation, elects the Chancellor and monitors the activities of the Federal Government. It is elected by the people for a term of four years. The parliamentary control of government activities is exercised primarily in the various committees of the Bundestag. The Bundestag establishes its committees as a shadow structure reflecting the distribution of responsibilities in the Federal Government, i.e. the Federal Ministries.
The 16th Deutsche Bundestag has 613 members. Members of the Bundestag are elected in general, free, equal and secret elections in their respective constituencies. They are representatives of the whole people, are not bound by any order or instruction and answer only to their own conscience.

Any German who has reached the age of eighteen and has not lost his/her suffrage or eligibility rights by court order has the right to vote and to be elected.

The Federal Council (Bundesrat, www.bundesrat.de) is the federal constitutional body and a second legislative chamber in addition to the Bundestag. Federal Acts affecting the powers of the Länder, i.e. the Federal States, require the consent of the Bundesrat. Through the Bundesrat, the 16 Länder also participate in the administration of the Federation and in European affairs.

Bundesrat members are members of Länder Governments or their representatives. Depending on its population, each Federal Land has three, four, five or six votes, which may only be cast as a block vote. Certain legislation requires the consent of the Bundesrat, i.e. it may not be enacted without or against the consent of the Bundesrat.

The Federal Government – the Cabinet – is formed by the Federal Chancellor and her Federal Ministers (www.bundesregierung.de).

Following an election to the Bundestag, the Federal President proposes to the Bundestag a candidate to be elected as Federal Chancellor. A successful election requires the absolute majority of votes in the Bundestag. In November 2005, Dr. Angela Merkel was the first woman to be elected to this office.

The Federal Chancellor (www.bundeskanzlerin.de) holds the chair in the Federal Cabinet and has the exclusive right of forming a cabinet. The Federal Chancellor selects the ministers and submits a binding proposal to the Federal President for their appointment or dismissal.

The division of responsibilities between the Federation and the Federal States (Länder) is an important element of the division of constitutional powers in the Federation and is prescribed by the Basic Law. As a result of their membership in the Federation, the Länder have rights and duties. The legislative powers of the Federation are divided into exclusive and concurrent legislative rights. In case of concurrent legislation, the Länder have legislative powers, whenever the Federation does not enact its own laws on the same subject matter.

The reform of Germany's federal system, which was adopted by the Bundestag and the Bundesrat in 2006, is the most extensive amendment of the Basic Law in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany. The purpose of the reform is to improve the capacity of the Federation and the Länder to take action or to make decisions, and it introduces a clearer assignment of political responsibilities. It especially includes new provisions governing the relations between the Federation and the Länder in legislative matters. The reform entered into force on 1 September 2006.
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON GERMANY’S POLITICAL STRUCTURE

The **Federal States** (Länder) are states in their own right and with their own powers. The Länder each have their own state constitutions, their own parliaments and governments as well as their own administration and organisation. As a matter of principle, the Länder govern their own affairs. In the legislative process, the Länder are empowered to enact legislation in areas in which the Federation does not assume legislative responsibility itself or which have not been assigned to the Federation in the Basic Law. Consequently, the Länder have legislative rights for the overwhelming majority of education and cultural policy matters as an expression of their sovereignty in matters of culture and education.

The **16 Federal Länder** are:

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<th>Federal Land</th>
<th>Land capital</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baden-Württemberg</td>
<td>Stuttgart</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Free State of Bavaria</td>
<td>Munich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin (Berlin is a Federal Land and has been the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany since 3 October 1990)</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandenburg</td>
<td>Potsdam</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen (City state: Bremen and Bremerhaven)</td>
<td>Bremen</td>
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<td>The Free Hanseatic City of Hamburg (City state)</td>
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<td>Hesse</td>
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<td>Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania</td>
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<td>Northrhine-Westphalia</td>
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<td>Saarland</td>
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<td>The Free State of Saxony</td>
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<td>The Free State of Thuringia</td>
<td>Erfurt</td>
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Cities and municipalities are the smallest components of the German. The Basic Law guarantees **local self-government** in cities, municipalities and counties. All three have the right to act in full self-determination and govern the affairs of their local communities in the framework of existing legislation. Local government law is enacted by the Länder, however.
The right to local self-government includes primarily local public transport for the territory of a given community, local road building, the provision of electricity, water and gas, sewage collection and treatment, as well as urban planning. Local authorities are also responsible for adult education and youth services. The supervision of local authorities by the Länder is normally restricted to a review of the lawfulness of local decisions.

For municipalities and smaller towns, many local responsibilities are beyond their own scope of feasibility. They may therefore be assumed by the Kreis (county), the territorial unit forming the next higher level of administration. Counties and their democratically elected bodies belong to the system of local self-government.

Bigger cities do not belong to a county; they are counties in their own right (kreisfrei).

The Legal System of the Federal Republic of Germany is laid down in constitutional law. But the legislation of the European Union is also applicable and so is international law. German law is primarily codified law governing almost all areas of life; and consequently legislation is now largely a matter of adapting and amending existing laws. The Judiciary is characterised by comprehensive legal protection and a high level of specialisation. The judiciary has five branches:

The “Courts of Justice (ordentliche Gerichte)” have jurisdiction in criminal matters, civil matters, matters of marriage and family law as well as non-contentious jurisdiction (e.g. matters involving the land register, probate and guardianship). The Courts of Justice are divided into four instances: the Local Court (Amtsgericht), the Regional Court (Landgericht), the Higher Regional Court (Oberlandesgericht) and the Federal Court of Justice (Bundesgerichtshof).

The Labour Courts (Arbeitsgerichte) have jurisdiction in matters of private law, collective bargaining law and works constitution law. There are three instances in this branch of law: the Labour Court (Arbeitsgericht), the Higher Labour Court (Landesarbeitsgericht) and the Federal Labour Court (Bundesarbeitsgericht).

The Administrative Courts (Verwaltungsgerichte) adjudicate all public-law cases pertaining to the area of administrative law. There are three instances: the Administrative Court (Verwaltungsgericht), the Higher Administrative Court/Court of Administrative Law (Oberverwaltungsgericht/Verwaltungsgerichtshof) and the Federal Administrative Court (Bundesverwaltungsgerichtshof).

The Social Courts (Sozialgerichte) rule on disputes from the entire field of social security. There are three instances: the Social Court (Sozialgericht), a Higher Social Court (Landessozialgericht) and the Federal Social Court (Bundessozialgericht).
The Fiscal Courts (Finanzgerichte) handle cases involving taxes, duties and rates. This branch has two instances: the Fiscal Court (Finanzgericht) and the Federal Fiscal Court (Bundesfinanzhof).

The Federal Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht, www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de) is not an element of the above-mentioned five branches of the judiciary. It is not only the supreme court of the Federation, but also a constitutional body adjudicating in constitutional disputes.

The Basic Law provides for political parties to participate in shaping the political will of the people. Representatives of political parties are elected to the Bundestag, the Landtage (Land Parliaments) or the bodies of local self-government for a certain time, during which they exercise political leadership and perform the associated supervisory and supervisory activities.

The position of political parties in Germany is described in Article 21 of the Basic Law: “The parties shall help form the political will of the people. They may be freely established. Their internal organisation shall conform to democratic principles. They shall publicly account for the sources and use of their funds and for their assets. Parties which by reason of the aims of the conduct of their adherents seek to impair or do away with the free democratic basic order or threaten the existence of the Federal Republic of Germany shall be unconstitutional. The Federal Constitutional Court shall rule on the question of unconstitutionality”.

Six parties forming five parliamentary groups are represented in the 16th German Bundestag:

- **CDU/CSU Group**
  The Christian Democratic Union of Germany (Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands) – CDU (www.cdu.de)
  The Christian Social Union (Christlich Soziale Union) – CSU (www.csu.de)

- **SPD Group**
  The Social Democratic Party of Germany (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands) – SPD (www.spd.de)

- **F. D. P. Group**
  The Free Democratic Party (Freie Demokratische Partei) –
  F.D.P. (www.liberale.de)

- **Die LINKE Group**
  The Left (Die LINKE) (www.die-linke.de)

- **BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN Group**
  Alliance 90/The Greens (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN) (www.gruene.de)

Pursuant to the 5% barrier (exclusion clause), which was introduced in 1953 and tightened up in 1957, political parties can only hold seats in parliament if they obtain at least 5% of all valid second votes cast or if they win three constituency seats directly.
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The following foundations are associated with political parties:
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation (CDU) (www.kas.de)
- Hanns Seidel Foundation (CSU) (www.hss.de)
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation (SPD) (www.fes.de)
- Friedrich Naumann Foundation (F.D.P.) (www.fnst-freiheit.org)
- Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (The Left) (www.rosalux.de)
- Heinrich Böll Foundation (Alliance 90/The Greens) (www.boell.de)

Information on the Web

The Germany Portal (Deutschland-Portal, www.deutschland.de), provides central, non-commercial access to Germany on the Web. It offers link lists with comments in six languages, is a platform for German services with high-quality Internet portals and the virtual international visiting card of the Federal Republic of Germany. Deutschland-Portal is hosted by the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung).

Facts about Germany (www.tatsachen ueber deutschland.de) is an information portal in 15 languages and offers basic facts and orientation especially for visitors from abroad. It has nine comprehensive chapters which describe the most important political, social and economic trends in Germany. This information is supplemented by links on German topics and a glossary on Germany containing 120 entries with basic information about Germany. Facts about Germany is a service provided by the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt).

bund.de (www.bund.de) – the portal of the Federal Government – is the central Internet access to a wide variety of information and services offered by public authorities in Germany. The portal is operated by the Federal Administrative Agency (Bundesverwaltungsamt). Web-based information with selected structural data on German cities, counties and municipalities, as well as a list of the official websites of local authorities is provided by the Local Authority Navigator (Kommunalnavigator, www.kommon.de), which is run by the three national associations of local authorities under the leadership of the German Association of Cities (Deutscher Städtetag). The County Navigator (Kreisnavigator, www.kreisnavigator.de) provides access to the websites of German counties and is run by the German County Association (Deutscher Landkreistag).
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN GERMANY 2007

The concerns, needs and perspectives of children and young people must be at the centre of our society’s modernisation in solidarity. The present development confirms the enhanced significance of close co-operation between politics and civil society, between the Federation, the Länder, the local authorities and the social partners as well as all civil society players, and also between the Member States of the European Union.

Childhood and youth have increasingly developed into autonomous institutional phases of life, which are increasingly characterised by globalisation, worldwide communications, mobility and migration, heterogeneous living conditions and diverse global visions and lifestyles. The significance of educational processes for the upbringing of our children and young people will have an outstanding priority, especially in view of creating a ‘Europe of knowledge’.

Children and young people are personalities in their own right with highly diverse abilities. Almost every fifth inhabitant of the Federal Republic of Germany is younger than 18 years of age. Roughly 10 percent of a total of approx. 16 million children and young persons are foreign nationals. A little less than a third of all 82 million inhabitants, i.e. approx. 27 million, are younger than 27 years of age.

On the occasion of the 2005 microcensus – the so-called small-scale census – the Federal Statistical Office (Statistisches Bundesamt) extended the population statistics to include a new category: “Individuals with a migration background are all individuals who immigrated to the present territory of the Federal Republic of Germany after 1949, as well as all foreign citizens born in Germany or Germans born with German citizenship and at least one immigrant parent or a parent born as a foreigner in Germany’. This means that Germans born in Germany may have a migration background if they are the children of ethnic Germans returning to Germany after 1980, ius soli children of non-German parents or Germans having one parent with a migration background. This migration background is therefore exclusively derived from the origin of the parents.” (Source: Statistisches Bundesamt, Fachserie 1, Reihe 2.2 Migration in Deutschland, Wiesbaden 2007, Seite 6 [Federal Statistical Office, Expert series 1. No. 2.2 Migration in Germany, Wiesbaden 2007, p. 6]). 18.6% of the population in the Federal Republic of Germany belonged to this category of individuals in 2005. In the group below 25 years of age, the share of individuals with a migration background already amounts to 27.2%, i.e. approx. 6 million children, young people and young adolescents. Generally speaking: the younger the age cohort, the higher the share of migrants. Among all children below the age of six, this share already amounts to 32.5%. These figures illustrate that youth social work, and especially youth migration services in child and youth
welfare services and in children and youth policy, are of special significance in overcoming associated problems.

The youth of today is much more concerned about losing their jobs or not being able to find adequate employment. And the fear of growing poverty has also increased over the past four years. In this context, their optimism regarding both their personal future and the future of their society has declined.

The pre-school period is at least as important as the actual time spent at school. Many young parents and future parents want to have both: a family and a career. A wide range of high-quality childcare options for toddlers below three years of age is therefore also necessary to offer parents an opportunity to reconcile both.

On their way to adulthood, young people do not only have opportunities, they are also confronted with the risks of potential failure. Young people leaving school without a diploma or with a low level of educational achievement, for example, cannot necessarily expect to find a place as a trainee, let alone a training place of their choice. This can either delay their entry into working life or predispose them to an occupational career in areas of low qualification. Even young people with a trainee position cannot relax; they are instead confronted with the question of whether they will be transferred into permanent employment by their training company.

Economic success is not a value in itself, but it is meant to help people – possibly every single individual – by providing them with opportunities in life. The recovery of the German labour market started in 2006 and clearly demonstrated that the level of education is crucial for the integration into the labour market. Despite all the political discussions on work experience/internships as a mass phenomenon, the development has shown that the demand for qualified labour has increased noticeably, depending on the business cycle in a specific sector.

The development of young people into a pragmatic and performance-oriented generation is especially found among girls and young women. When it comes to their school education, young women have meanwhile overtaken young men and will increasingly aim for higher-level education certificates/diplomas. Power, influence and career have become desirable objectives for girls and young women. It is a sign of a modern society that it is now natural for young women to aspire to a successful career, and that employment and family are not mutually exclusive.

The experiences and the background of today’s adolescents are marked by linguistic and cultural heterogeneity. The coexistence of children and young people with diverse previous experience requires a higher level of intercultural competence and demands greater ability in dealing with linguistic and cultural diversity.
More and more children experience the opportunities of increased mobility from a very early age because of trips, vacations and a relocation of their parents. In their own environment, in kindergarten, in school, in their neighbourhood, in public spaces and in the media, they experience a wide variety of cultures, languages and ethno-cultural identities.

Technological and media developments profoundly change the life of children and young people, and they require not only media competence but also increasingly foreign-language skills for international communication.

Children and young people want to participate in the democratic development of their communities, the political and social system, i.e. they want to help shape their own futures. They get involved in projects, initiatives, associations and clubs and expect politicians to come up with action-oriented solutions. Politics and society have to open up to the visions of children and young people. Political and administrative decision-making processes must be designed in such a way that the concerns of children and young people are accommodated and translated into social practice.

Participation and involvement, i.e. the participation of children and young people in their immediate environment in the family, in kindergartens, schools, churches, associations and local authorities as an expression of their education for democracy, is a necessity of social policy. Also in view of the effects of globalisation, the political standing of children and youth participation is being steadily enhanced.

Young people are motivated and a large majority view the future with critical optimism. The level of freedom of young people and their opportunities, which have grown steadily in recent years and enable them to determine the structure of their own lives, has also contributed to a steady rise of phenomena such as longer education periods, as well as longer periods of living with their parents, and there is an increasing orientation to the standards and behaviours of their peers. This has also led to a public debate on the need to shorten the periods of education, and this debate has already resulted in targeted political measures.

The overwhelming majority of young people is convinced of democracy as a form of government. In many cases, a problematic assessment of democracy is expressed as criticism of their living conditions and a lack of employment and social opportunities.

There is a slight increase in young people’s interest in politics, but, generally, their interest is still not very pronounced. Young people’s trust in societal institutions and players varies. Those institutions, which – as the judiciary and police – are regarded as non-partisan, enjoy a higher level of confidence.

The lowest level of confidence is expressed vis-à-vis political parties, however. From the young people’s perspective, the actions of political parties and politicians are determined less by the common good and more by personal power.
Human rights and environmental protection organisations are regarded as trustworthy. Furthermore, there is only a moderate level of confidence in the Federal Government and the churches. Grassroots initiatives and trade unions only enjoy an average level of confidence, even though this level is slightly higher than young people's confidence in the government.

Despite this rather reserved attitude of a larger group in the young population towards politics and the situation in society, the overwhelming majority of all young people express a clear consensus with the norms of our democratic system.

Their attitudes towards political involvement show that a commitment to the affairs of our society and for other people is now an absolutely natural element of young people’s personal lifestyle. In their leisure time, young people are committed to a wide variety of causes. Dominant causes are youth-related issues such as a general commitment to the interests of youth or better options for meaningful recreational activities. In addition, there are activities for the socially deprived or the disadvantaged, for better coexistence or even security and order in their own neighbourhoods as well as other specific issues.

More general objectives or a commitment to direct socio-political changes are not typical of the activities of young people. Their focus is clearly on their own sphere of life and a commitment for target groups with concrete needs.

Typical spaces for such activities are associations/clubs as well schools and universities. These are the areas in which a majority of young people primarily identifies opportunities to develop activities of their own. Other areas of this kind are parishes or youth organisations, where a certain number of young people are active. Self-governed projects are a field of certain significance especially for young people with a high level of education. And we should not underestimate areas such as the rescue services and voluntary fire brigades, which often offer young people from a less privileged background access to socially relevant activities.

In contrast, traditional political organisations such as political parties or trade unions or even grassroots initiatives or organisations such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International or others are less significant in quantitative terms.

Young people’s attitudes towards societal activities correspond to the pragmatic perceptions of this generation. Ideological concepts or potential social utopias no longer determine young people’s outlook. A personally satisfying activity in their own environment is much more important to them. It may be an everyday activity in their immediate environment or participation in groups which address various issues (local or even global). This is borne out by the experiences of the Voluntary Social Service Year or the Voluntary Ecological Service Year, for example, for which more than 13,000 young people register every year.
Committed young people participate in activity-promoting social spaces. In their leisure time, they join groups, attend youth clubs and centres, are active in sports or develop their artistic and creative abilities. Media consumption (TV, computer games, etc.) or simply “hanging around” is a significantly less frequent element of their everyday life.

The major representative empirical study on honorary activities, volunteer work or civic commitment, the so-called second wave of the Volunteer Survey, which was commissioned in 2004 by the Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) and published in 2006, comes to the remarkable conclusion that young people between 14 and 24 years of age are one of the most active demographic groups with a stable involvement rate. In addition to 35% of involved young people in this group, 43% will potentially become involved. The personal significance of this involvement has grown too. 80% of all involved young people consider their involvement as an important or very important part of their lives. According to the same study, young people are more often active in sports clubs, schools and churches. Voluntary involvement is also more frequent in a church or school context and, in addition, in out-of-school youth work, i.e. the traditional fields and facilities which are specifically dedicated to youth work. According to the researchers, school certificates and educational aspirations are of crucial significance in opting for voluntary involvement. Young people with low educational status show considerably less volunteer activities or involvement – this trend has even grown over time. Other important explanatory factors for voluntary involvement are a large circle of friends and acquaintances and strong ties to churches or religious communities. A significant conclusion from these data is that young people with a higher school-leaving qualification and better social integration are increasingly those who also show a voluntary commitment. Over time, the involvement of young people has therefore become increasingly socially selective.

General change in our society, changes in the labour market and in gainful employment, the changed conditions of family life, the de-traditionalisation and pluralisation of the living conditions of children and young people thus present new challenges for society as a whole.

Today’s young people attribute an especially high significance to the family and remain within the structures of their family of origin for an increasingly long time. Consequently, 73% of all young people between the ages of 18 and 21 still live with their parents. Even among the 22- to 25-year-olds, this rate is still as high as 34%.

In contrast to the hypothesis of disintegrating marriages and families, today’s young people are highly family-oriented, and this orientation has even grown slightly in recent years.
The support provided by the private/familiar sphere of their families of origin gives young people the chance to balance the tensions in their lives. The family can provide security, social standing and emotional support. The majority of young people are satisfied with the way in which their parents have brought them up, even though there are occasional differences of opinion.

In comparison to boys and young men, girls and young women continue to show a strong orientation to the family; they more frequently want to have children, get along better with their parents and enter into stable partnerships at an earlier age. Girls are independent earlier than boys and leave their parental home at a younger age.

At the same time, there is a growing number of young adults in Germany who do not wish to have children and set up a family. Unfavourable societal conditions may prevent many young people from realising their wish for a child. Young women in particular are confronted with numerous difficulties in setting up a family because their training, entry into the labour market and a partnership are condensed in a very short time window together with family formation.

Social inequalities also mark the lives of families and – starting from the family – they impact other spheres of young people’s lives. This includes the recreational sphere. Following their inner emancipation from their parents, leisure is one of the most important social spaces for young people, where they discover themselves and strengthen their personalities. In many issues of everyday life, the peer group plays a more significant role than parents. From an educational perspective, peers have become the “co-educators” of young people, especially since the overwhelming majority of contacts to the media world are maintained through peers.

Today’s young people are sometimes much more adept than their parents when it comes to gathering information and incentives for recreational activities, and thus their personal development receives influences from the media and especially through radio, TV and the Internet. These sources may compete with the influences of the parental home and school. But the conclusion is still true: social origins are determining factors for all recreational activities. For young people from well-off families, their origin mostly accentuates impulses from their parental home. Young people from upper social strata very often read or engage in creative or artistic activities in their leisure time, and they maintain their social contacts. Among young people from socially disadvantaged families, however, their immersion in the peer group with its specific leisure-time culture has a different significance. Especially young men from lower social classes form the group of technology freaks, who primarily spend their leisure time playing computer games and watching TV, as the evidence from the most recent Shell Youth Study shows.
As the 2006 Data Report of the Federal Statistical Office concludes with respect to recreational activities, a distinction can be drawn between two basic types: social and consumptive recreational activities. The first group includes social participation in groups and institutions which have an integrative function in our society. Consumptive recreational activities, whether they are performed alone or in a group, are more oriented towards recreation and fun, however. Every second young person pursues sporting activities in his/her leisure time, for example. Going to cinemas, pop concerts, discotheques or sports events is a growing activity, and this illustrates the fun factor’s increasing significance in our society.

The young people’s value system generally shows a positive and stable orientation. For both genders, the immediate social orientations provided by friendships and the family continue as a trend, which is accompanied by a more pronounced pursuit of personal independence. Independence belongs to a complex of youth values which are oriented towards the development of a person’s individuality. This more pronounced pursuit of individuality is less closely associated with emphasising a person’s self-assertion, and this applies especially to girls and young women.

As the Shell Youth Study finds, the significance of diligence and ambition as secondary virtues continues to grow. And young people have increased their efforts to lead a health-conscious life. As for diligence and ambition, young females are more conscious of these values.

Religiosity only plays a moderate role in young people’s value systems, and this applies especially to young males. The value system and the practical behaviour of most young people continue to be moderately closely related to denominational/religious precepts. When all available data from recent years are combined, the emerging attitude of young people towards religion is largely unchanged.

In the group of young people with a migration background, “true” religiosity, which is meanwhile relatively rare among German young people, continues to have a strong backing. 52% of foreign young people and 44% of German young people born outside Germany believe in a personal God, but this is only true for 28% of German-born young people.

The belief in a personal God is especially frequent among Islamic and Christian-Orthodox young people, and is more pronounced among Christian migrants belonging to one of the two major German denominations.

The special significance of religion among migrants is especially related to the fact that religiosity has a culture-supporting and integrating function for this group. It is often impossible for young people with a migration background to escape this religiously motivated integration pressure, which carries the risk of isolating them from German culture.
Young people in Germany obviously regard Europe as their personal opportunity. In addition to freedom of movement, i.e. the opportunity to travel, study or even work throughout Europe, and the associated cultural diversity, a united Europe is also regarded as a guarantee for peace and more opportunities to have a say in global matters.

Young people neither show a general negative bias nor special euphoria for the globalisation process; instead they more frequently assess it with an undertone of concern. Especially among the younger age groups, there are obviously large knowledge gaps regarding globalisation, which indicates that the problems and perspectives associated with this process have not been intensively considered. Young people underline the potential problematic consequences of globalisation especially in the shape of unemployment or even crime. For a slightly smaller majority, globalisation stands for peace. And a roughly comparable proportion of young people also mention the destruction of the environment and what they see as worsening underdevelopment.

As regards their opportunities of influencing the globalisation process, young people largely rely on international organisations such as the United Nations or – primarily – the EU. On this issue, they also attribute major significance to national governments. From a young people’s perspective, globalisation critics are a corrective or a counter-culture, but the majority does not regard them as a creative force.

Newer children and youth studies address developments and sub-aspects of education, the living conditions in families and society, issues regarding the state of health of children and young people, their assessment by adults as well as children’s social situation and their attitudes as regards the future.

Various studies show that an authoritative educational style is associated with a positive development of children. This educational style is characterised by the fact that parents are approachable for their children, that there is a climate of mutual appreciation and emotional warmth, and that attention is paid to both the children’s compliance with clear rules and their autonomy within their own defined space. Children from such families are categorised as emotionally more stable, socially more competent and capable.

Parents who promote the independence or autonomy of their children from an early age also strengthen their children’s sense of individuality. They encourage their children to express themselves and experience their children’s gradual development into autonomous individuals. In this process, they teach their children that sympathy and respect are not the result of mere adjustment to their parents and adults in general, but develop as a result of independence. In such cases, parents are their children’s role models for a positive outlook on life, healthy self-esteem and an appropriate expectation of achievement.

The results of the nationwide Child and Youth Health Survey KiGGS (Kinder- und Jugendgesundheitssurvey, KiGGS), which were published on
16 May 2007, provide a first wide-ranging overview on the physical and mental state of health of children and young people in Germany. For this internationally unique study, almost 80,000 children and young people between 0 and 17 years of age were medically examined and – partly through their parents – interviewed by the Robert Koch Institute.

Statements on health-related modes of behaviour such as nutrition, physical exercise, drug and alcohol consumption, as well as the participants’ vaccination status and prevention behaviour, permit initial conclusions to be drawn with respect to risk factors and groups of particular concern. For the first time, adolescents with a migration background were involved in the study according to their share in the population.

Generally, the study shows a shift from acute to chronic diseases such as obesity, asthma or allergies and an increase of mental illness. Consequently, 15% of all children are classified as obese. Among all chronic diseases, children and young people most often suffer from bronchitis (13.3%), neuro-dermatitis (13.2%) and hay fever (10.7%).

The bigger part of the study commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Health (Bundesgesundheitsministerium) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesforschungsministerium) confirms: in all areas with the exception of allergies, children from socially disadvantaged families are doing worse than children from higher social strata. This is also linked to the type of school, which is these children primarily attend: grade school (Hauptschule*) students smoke five times more often than grammar school (Gymnasium) students. Underprivileged children suffer from eating disorders twice as often as children from better-off classes, and they show signs of behavioural disorders three times more often. In addition to cramped living conditions and a low income, their risk factors primarily include a conflict-prone climate in the family with

* Following the four-year primary school, there are various types of secondary schools in Germany: the ‘Hauptschule’, which is similar to the British secondary modern school, the ‘Realschule’, which is similar to the British secondary technical/middle school, and the ‘Gymnasium’, which corresponds to the British grammar school. These schools differ in their performance requirements and their emphasis on applied versus academic learning, and they lead to different types of graduation certificates. In addition, there is the ‘Gesamtschule’ type of school, which corresponds to the British comprehensive school and offers parallel tracks for students with simultaneous teaching of different proficiency groups. In the ‘Gesamtschule’ type of school, it is easy to change from one of these proficiency groups (types of schools) to another. The ‘Hauptschule’ secondary modern school includes compulsory school attendance in grades 5 to 9 and a voluntary 10th grade. The ‘Realschule’ type of secondary school is ranked between the secondary modern school (Hauptschule) and the grammar school (Gymnasium), it includes grades 5 to 10 and leads to the ‘Mittlere Reife’, the secondary school level I certificate, which is similar to the British O-level. The ‘Gymnasium’ grammar school teaches more advanced general education, and – depending on the Land (federal state) – it ends with the ‘General Certificate of Aptitude for Higher Education’ after 12 or 13 school years.
frequent disputes between the spouses, mental illness and many siblings, i.e. a lack of time for the individual child.

In contrast and as regards the consumption of alcohol and cannabis, there is hardly any difference between grade school students and grammar school students. The researchers of the Robert Koch Institute confirm that alcohol is the drug number one for young people in Germany: 8% of all 13-year-old boys consume alcohol at least once a week. Among 17-year-olds, this figure already reaches two-thirds. And girls are actively involved as well – every tenth 14- to 17-year-old girl drinks spirits at least once a week. At the age of 17, every fourth boy and every seventh girl report an experience with cannabis.

The KiGGS study documents that there is a connection between TV and obesity: 11.5% of all children spending three or more hours in front of a TV or a computer, are adipose, i.e. too fat. Almost 2 million boys and girls suffer from excessive body weight – 50% more than in the 1990s. The share of severely obese young people has tripled during this period. Even in kindergarten, almost every tenth child is too fat. Among 7- to 10-year-olds, approx. 15% have too much body fat, and this figure amounts to more than 18% among the 11- to 13-year-olds, regardless of whether these young people come from Western or Eastern Germany.

A fundamental change of trends in young people's diagnosed disorders is another reason: while children primarily suffered from acute, i.e. rather short-term illnesses in the past, the researchers now register a trend towards chronic diseases and especially towards mental disorders – the scientists talk about a “new morbidity”.

11.5% of girls and 17.8% of the boys show signs of behavioural or emotional problems. An unfavourable family climate and a low socioeconomic status are the most important risk factors. 50% of all children show signs of “psychological problems”. Among 7- to 10-year-old boys, these problems even concern every fifth child. The supplementary Bella Study confirms that every class from grade one to grade four has an average of five children who are aggressive or suspected of suffering from anxiety or depression. Every tenth boy is suspected of suffering from hyperactivity. Especially in case of children from problem families, psychological problems often go untreated, and are thus carried over to adulthood.

A study commissioned by the AOK health insurance company and stern magazine showed how important firm rules are for children’s healthy development in a family – the study marked the kick-off for the “Healthy children – Healthy future” (Gesunde Kinder – gesunde Zukunft) campaign. The general results of this study, which was presented on 15 May 2007 and provided an overview of children's healthy life in their family, confirmed that many children in Germany are not doing well: they are too fat, they are lethargic, and they have psychological problems. It was impossible to determine connections
between the type or the quality of the food consumed and the children's nutritional status; the only decisive factor was children's eating habits. Families with children with normal weight had a different attitude and different eating habits than families with overweight children.

A structured day and daily routines are important for mental health. They offer children security and something to hold onto, and are an opportunity for the family to spend quality time together. They also make parents’ everyday lives easier. Daily rituals at bedtime or at mealtimes are opportunities to devote undivided attention and affection to the children. They also create a feeling of belonging and underline the significance of the family as a coherent community.

Satisfaction with one’s own life and confidence in other people are positively influenced by social networks, or social assets. Good social contacts with neighbours, family friends or possibly relatives supports the parents and is best for the children. For the children’s mental health, integration into their social environment is of special importance. When people know many neighbours personally, they experience a higher quality of life, experience less distrust and feel safer in their neighbourhood, and potential help is available to them.

The AOK-stern study also underlines that every child should receive undivided attention at least once a day. This is indispensable for the emotional well-being of the child. This also means physical closeness. It is a matter of the children experiencing affection, appreciation and a sense of security.

Sports and exercise may be an effective way to be fit, healthy and self-assured. Children cannot normally explore this on their own, especially as their neighbourhoods are often not suitable for unstructured games and exercise. Exercise together with parents therefore promotes the children's motivation and opportunities. Competitions and successes make them proud and support their self-esteem. When parents are physically active, so are their children.

The most important outcomes of the representative “Youth from an adult perspective” (Jugendliche aus der Sicht der Erwachsenen) survey of the Bertelsmann Stiftung (Bertelsmann Foundation), which was published on 25 July 2007 and involved 1,000 adults (above 34 years of age), confirm that the adult population in Germany holds a rather sceptical view of the young generation. Even though it is true that a large majority of all adults like young people (92.2 %), adults criticise the lifestyles of young people (76 %). They associate rather negative features with youth. In contrast, their image of their own generation is considerably more positive. Adults show little appreciation of greater codetermination for young people: more than 70 % are against voting rights for 16-year-olds. Adults are even more against giving driving licences to 16-year-olds: only 15 % of all adults are in favour. And adults think that the social involvement of young people is insufficiently developed. Even though 93 % of all adults think that the involvement of youth in society is important, their assessment of young people’s actual involvement is relatively low. 67 % of respondents identify
deficits in this area. Furthermore, almost 40% of all adults do not trust young people to successfully meet the social challenges of the future.

Specifically, the outcomes of the Bertelsmann Study are as follows: regarding the assessment and acceptance of young people, the study takes a rather sceptical view of the relationship between young people and adults. Nonetheless, the large majority of adults stated that they like young people (92.2%) and take their views seriously (91.5%). But they do not agree with the lifestyle of the young generation. Consequently, they think that young people consume excessive amounts of alcohol (70.5%) and do not respect other people’s property (61.1%). Other negative features are quoted as follows: violence (57.7%), illegal drugs (57.7%) and vandalism (57.2%).

When it comes to the assessment of young people’s characters, the following traits figure in the upper third: ‘consumption-oriented’ (91%) and ‘only after their personal advantage’ (64%). Between the values for these rather negative traits of character, we also find ‘creativity’ (75%). They are followed by ‘tolerance’ (60%), ‘diligence and ambition’ (53%), ‘social involvement’ (44%), ‘sense of duty’ (43%) and ‘family orientation’ (36%).

From an adult perspective, young people have a particularly high level of competence in technical matters (90%). A clear majority states that young people are good at handling other people (73%). But more than two thirds of the adults surveyed doubt young people’s ability to deal with money. A similar negative finding is registered for political competence and competences with respect to young people’s social involvement.

The LBS Children’s Barometer Germany 2007 (LBS-Kinderbarometer Deutschland 2007) study, which was published on 3 September 2007, is the first to present a data base which is not compiled from the adult perspective, but reflects children’s personal attitudes to life.

Bad marks and having to repeat a school year: children in Germany have no bigger fear than failure in school. Even though a large majority of children in Germany likes their life space, as the survey shows, every fourth child believes that they are more often sick, do not eat healthily and do not exercise enough. For a fifth, crisps and fast food are a steady part of their diet. A third of all children eat sweets either often or very often.

The unpleasant effects of stress are already evident in children: a third of the children surveyed react to stress with headaches, a quarter reacts with stomach pains. And girls show stress-induced symptoms more often than boys. According to the survey, potential stress triggers are insults, teasing and losing face in class, i.e. so-called bullying attacks.

The subjective incidence of children’s illnesses is related to their nutritional habits. The less healthy their diet, the more often schoolchildren feel sick. Only two thirds of children see their paediatrician for regular medical checkups, but as many as four fifths see their dentist for preventive checkups. Less than two
thirds of children are happy about their height and weight. Every fifth child thinks that they are too fat, every tenth thinks they are too thin. 17% believe they are too small and 7% believe they are too tall.

The children surveyed consider protection against violence, drug prevention and the rights to games and recreation as the most important children’s rights. They feel that their right to privacy and their right to freely express their opinion are most often violated.

The objective of the first “Children 2007” (Kinder 2007) study, which was carried out for the child support organisation WORLD VISION by youth researchers according to the model of the Shell studies and presented in mid-October 2007, was to obtain a representative picture of the life situation and the wishes, needs and interests of the youngest generation. The study involved interviews with 1,600 children below 11 years of age. Its findings include that a large majority of children is satisfied with the situation in their families, at school, in their leisure time and with their friends and that they are happy. The researchers also conclude that their criticism of a lack of friendliness towards children in the residential environment is rather moderate and is related primarily to stress due to road traffic and a lack of friends for playing in the neighbourhood; in large metropolitan areas, it is also related to a fear of youth gangs. The children's relatively pronounced preparedness to get involved on behalf of others and to take responsibility is remarkable.

But the ‘Children’ study also shows that social origins characterize children’s everyday life from a young age. Starting opportunities of children from lower strata/origins are the poorest, and permeate all areas of their lives and work like a vicious circle. Children experience poverty-related risks and the lack of resources as a burden. These risks also restrict their opportunities for involvement: in the family, which often cannot cope with the material pressure and existential worries; in school, where time and opportunities are not available to support children individually and to remedy disadvantages; and in their residential environment or recreational activities.

As the researchers report in their summary, children from lower social strata are more often left to their own devices. They lack backing, encouragement and targeted support. As a consequence, the children's everyday life is often unilaterally orientated towards watching TV or consuming other media. It is striking that especially boys are more susceptible to this form of recreational activity, which also tends to marginalise them socially. Children from the upper strata are in a different situation: right from the start, they can make use of their better opportunities, have more space to develop on their own, and the educational background of their families naturally provides them with access to a more diverse and creative form of recreation. For them, TV is more often just one activity among others, and these children also show more self-assurance in their own learning abilities.
The study provides a lot of data on children’s living conditions and wishes. At this point, the findings on children’s involvement should be mentioned in particular. The study’s evidence shows that regular participation in associations and clubs or the use of other offerings is just as dependent on the social stratum as educational achievement in Germany. Among children from the lowest social stratum, only a minority engages in such activities. The higher their social stratum, the higher their share of active participation. A comparable pattern applies to children with a migration background. 77 % of all indigenous German children attend regular activities in their leisure time, while only 63 % of migrant children do so. A similar pattern emerges for children’s membership of sports clubs. Children from the lower strata as well as migrant children – and among those, primarily girls – do not join club sports as frequently as others.

The cyclical recovery of the labour market in Germany is currently associated with a more intensive discussion of the recently emerging higher poverty risk. In particular, the **child poverty** peak of 2007 is considered as a “burning social problem”. According to a report of the Bremen Institute for Labour Market Research and Occupational Youth Services (Bremer Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Jugendberufsforschung, BIAJ), which was published on 15 August 2007, the number of children from families depending on Unemployment Benefit Type II as their only income has reached an all-time high. According to the Institute, 1.929 million children currently live in so-called ‘Hartz IV families’ (i.e. families receiving Unemployment Benefit Type II). They represent approx. 17 % of the 11.5 million children in Germany. In 2006, the number of poor children amounted to 60 %. Single mothers are especially at risk of becoming impoverished.

The consequences of child poverty are lower levels of health, education, and opportunity. The Institut für Schulentwicklungsforschung (Institute for School Development Research, IFS) at Dortmund University detected a direct connection between poverty and educational success. The study proves that children from households with a lower socio-economic status acquire fewer skills in their schooling and are systematically disadvantaged.

The Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk (German Child Relief Organisation) published its **“Child Report Germany 2007”** (Kinderreport Deutschland 2007) in November 2007. The report analyses the life spaces of socially disadvantaged children and the aspects of child poverty and the media or health and nutrition. Another focus of the report is its view on children with a migration background.

According to the report, the number of poor children in Germany has grown dramatically: In 1965, every 75th child below the age of seven living in the Federal Republic of Germany depended either temporarily or permanently on social welfare payments; in 2006, this situation affected more than one sixth of all children living in reunited Germany. According to the report, approx. 14 % of
all children living in the Federal Republic of Germany in 2007 are poor, immigrant families being especially affected. This means in figures: after the introduction of Unemployment Benefit Type II (by the Hartz IV legislation) in 2005, the number of children depending on social welfare assistance or benefits has doubled and now amounts to more than 2.5 million. It is estimated that approx. 5.9 million children in Germany live in households in which the parents’ annual income amounts to less than EUR 15,300.

Children and young people in Germany express a wish to be adequately treated as the future of our society. We see a generation which can fulfil all expectations of our society with respect to responsibility, achievement and sense of family. The wishes they express concern better societal conditions for education, training and employment opportunities, the start of a family, and constitute an expression of our present realities.

Creating positive living conditions for children and young people, strengthening their own resources by – inter alia – supporting their civic commitment, securing social services and independent service areas for children, young people and families are the responsibility of politicians in general and of child and youth policy as well as family policy in particular.

Additional Literature on this Section

(2007) Bertelsmann Stiftung: Jugendliche aus der Sicht der Erwachsenen. Eine Untersuchung der Bertelsmann Stiftung in Kooperation mit Prof. Dr. Dr. Helmut Schneider [Youth from an adult perspective. A study of Bertelsmann Foundation in co-operation with Prof. Dr. Dr. Helmut Schneider] (Steinbeis-Hochschule Berlin), Gütersloh, July 2007, 18 pages


(2007) Ravens-Sieberer, Ulrike; Wille, Nora; Settertobulte, Wolfgang: Was fördert das gesunde Aufwachsen von Kindern in Familien? Eine qualitative Studie im Auftrag der AOK-Die Gesundheitskasse und des stern durchgeführt von der Gesellschaft für angewandte Sozialforschung (GE-F-A-S) [Factors promoting the healthy growth of children in families. A qualitative study carried out by the Gesellschaft für angewandte Sozialforschung (Society for Applied Social Research) for the AOK-Die Gesundheitskasse health insurance company and stern magazine], Gütersloh, with scientific management by the WHO Collaborating Center for Child and Adolescent Health Promotion at Bielefeld University, May 2007


STATUTES WITH RELEVANCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Being rooted in the Basic Law (Graphic 3), many general Acts of Parliament such as the Civil Code (Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch), the Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch), the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch) and the Employment Promotion Act (Arbeitsförderungsgesetz) are of special relevance for children, young people and families. In addition, there are Acts of Parliament which exclusively deal with specific problem situations or the promotion of children and young people. The Acts discussed below were introduced by the Reform of the Federal System, and they are primarily listed in alphabetical order. Whenever new acts, draft legislation, ordinances or programmatic guidelines extend the provisions of an act, lend further precision to the execution of legal provisions or define their implementation, such legislation is listed directly below the specific Act to which it refers.

Reform of the Federal System

The Reform of the Federal System (Föderalismusreform), which was adopted by the Bundestag (Federal Parliament) and the Bundesrat (Federal Council) in June and July 2006, is the most extensive amendment of the Basic Law in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany. The reform’s objective is to improve the capacity for action and decision-making in the Federation and the Länder (Federal States) and to introduce a clearer allocation of political responsibilities. It especially provides for rules governing the relations between the Federation and the Länder in legislative matters. It entered into force on 1 September 2006.

The number of Federal Acts requiring the consent of the Bundesrat will be reduced. By contrast, responsibilities have been devolved to the Länder such
as the law governing the remuneration and pensions of the Länder’s civil servants and the funding of social housing schemes. The Länder are responsible for correctional issues and shop closing hours. Nuclear energy and defence against terror as well as the registration of residents and the protection of German cultural assets against transfer abroad are the responsibility of the Federation. The Federation has also been granted more extensive rights in environmental matters and waste management. In research and science at universities and polytechnics, the Federation and the Länder may co-operate in projects of supra-regional significance.

Key Elements of the Reform of the Federal System

- Legislative Powers

The legislative process will be accelerated and become more transparent. As a result, the number of Acts requiring the consent of the Bundestag will decrease from approx. 60% at present to approx. 35 to 40%. The Bundestag will thus depend much less often on the consent of the Bundestag, and it will be more difficult for the opposition to block the government’s legislative initiatives. But the Bundestag’s consent will still be required for all Acts entailing considerable costs for the Länder.

The reason for the extended obligations to legislative consent is especially found in Art. 84, Para 1 of the Basic Law (old version), which required the consent of the Bundesrat when the Federal legislation in question also contained provisions on administrative implementation processes. In future, this requirement for consent will be abolished; in such an event, the Länder may introduce diverging administrative processes. Whenever the Federation intends to exclude such diverging state legislation in exceptional cases, the consent of the Bundesrat is required.

In return for the Länder’s renunciation of participation rights in the federal legislative process, they will be given exclusive legislative powers for laws governing the service, remuneration and pensions of civil servants of the Länder and their local authorities, the law on the prison service - but excluding the substantive criminal law provisions which in terms of legal dogma would pertain to this sphere -, laws governing homes - excluding the associated law on healthcare -, shop closing hours and licensed premises, public meetings or assemblies and the press. In the legislative fields of the environment and education, the Länder are granted a so-called “deviation right”, which enables them to promulgate their own legislation, which may differ from the federal provisions.

In future, the Federation will have exclusive responsibility for legislation governing the registration of residents and passports, nuclear energy, firearms and explosives, compensation for war-induced losses, the notaries’
profession as well as “the protection of German cultural assets against transfer abroad”.

The framework legislation of the Federation (formerly: Art. 75 of the Basic Law) is abolished. These subject matters are either included in the scope of exclusive or concurrent federal legislation, or the Länder will legislate on these matters.

- Education Policy

Education policy will mostly be the exclusive legislative domain of the Länder. The Federation only retains the powers to legislate on admission to universities and on university diplomas – the Länder may adopt diverging rules – and on in-company training within the dual system of vocational education. The previous joint responsibility for the construction of facilities of higher education will become an autonomous domain of the Länder, and the same applies to the joint involvement in educational planning. As a result, the Federation will withdraw from funding the construction of university/polytechnics and will no longer provide direct financial assistance to school education.

Other core elements of the Reform of the Federal System concern the laws governing civil servants, matters of interior policy, environmental law, Europe and financial matters.

With respect to child and youth services, the concurrent legislative powers are retained, as the powers described in Art. 74 Para. 1 No. 7 of the Basic Law (“public welfare”) continue to apply to all laws governing child and youth services. Relevant amendments are especially associated with the new opportunities created in Art. 84 Para. 1 of the Basic Law, which enable the Länder to enact diverging provisions on administrative processes and agencies. Pursuant to Art. 84 Para. 1 of the Basic Law, the Länder will adopt their own legislation on the establishment of agencies and administrative processes when they execute federal legislation in their own right. When federal legislation contains other provisions, the Länder may adopt deviating provisions.

Reform of the Federal System II

On 15 December 2006, Bundestag and Bundesrat adopted the modalities of setting up the 32-member Commission No. 2 on the Modernisation of the Federal System, which will have a mandate to design the Reform of the Federal System II (Föderalismusreform II): 16 members of the Commission will come from the Federation, and they will include four members of the Federal Government (the Federal Minister of Justice, the Federal Minister of the Interior, the Federal Minister of Finance and the Chief of the Federal Chancellery), and the Commission will include the 16 Minister-Presidents of the Länder. Four representatives of the Landtage (Land Parliaments), probably one Landtagspräsident (President
of a Land Parliament) and three leaders of parliamentary groups will also participate in the Commission, but they will have no vote. It is also planned to involve representatives of the national associations of cities/counties/municipalities.

**Adoptionsvermittlungsgesetz (AdVermiG)**

(Adoption Placement Act)

*Act on the Placement of Children for Adoption and the Ban on Recruiting Surrogate Mothers (Adoption Placement Act – AdVermiG) in the version published on 22 December 2001 as amended by Art. 4 Para. 15 of the Act of 17 December 2006*

Adoption placement involves bringing together children below the age of 18 and persons wishing to adopt a child (adoption applicants). Adoption placement is also evidence of the opportunity to adopt a child or to have a child adopted in cases when the child is not yet born or has not been fathered. Recruiting surrogate mothers is not regarded as adoption placement.

The Act stipulates that adoption placement is the responsibility of Youth Offices (Jugendamt) or Land Youth Offices (Landesjugendamt). A Youth Office may only handle adoption placements if it has created a special adoption placement unit. The Land Youth Office is to set up a central adoption agency. Youth Offices of neighbouring local authorities or counties may set up a joint adoption placement unit with the approval of the Land Youth Office’s central adoption agency. Several Land Youth Offices may also set up a joint adoption placement unit. In the Länder of Berlin, Hamburg and the Saarland, the responsibilities of the Youth Office’s adoption placement unit may be transferred to the Land Youth Office.

Local and central agencies of Diakonisches Werk, Deutscher Caritasverband, Arbeiterwohlfahrt and their affiliated professional associations, as well as other organisations headquartered in the Federal Republic of Germany, may also be entitled to act as adoption placement agencies when such agencies are recognized as adoption placement agencies by the Land Youth Office’s central adoption agency.

The provisions of this Act on international adoption placement apply in all cases in which the child’s or the adoption applicants’ habitual residence is abroad, or when the child was brought to Germany within a period of two years prior to the start of the adoption process. Within the scope of The Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Adoption Convention), the supplementary provisions of the Adoption Convention Implementation Act of 5 November 2001 also apply.
The best interests of the child must have priority in all adoptions. The rights of the child and its biological parents are to be respected. Consequently, Art. 21 of the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989 commits the signatory states especially to the principles of reviewing the child’s well-being, obtaining the consent of the biological parents as well as the supervision of national and inter-country adoptions by the signatory states. The Convention on the Rights of the Child also prohibits any form of child trafficking (Art. 35).

The purpose of The Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption is to ensure worldwide respect of these principles in adoption procedures. Germany ratified the Convention on 22 November 2001. It entered into force in Germany on 1 March 2002.

The Convention is applicable when a child living in one of the signatory states of the Convention is adopted by parents living in another signatory state (“host country”). It applies when the adoption is pronounced in the child’s country of origin and the child travels to the host country together with his/her adoptive parents, or when the prospective parents initially meet and take the child from his/her country of origin, and the adoption is subsequently performed in the host country.

Germany is primarily a “host country” – cases in which German adoption applicants wish to adopt a foreign child are by far the most frequent. The opposite case is relatively rare and primarily concerns the adoption of stepchildren or children of relatives.

The Convention lays down the prerequisites for inter-country adoption, the division of responsibilities and co-operation between authorities, the requirements for the certification and supervision of adoption placement agencies, as well as the recognition of adoptions in other signatory states of the Convention.

The Convention was implemented with the “Act on the Settlement of Legal Issues Regarding Inter-Country Adoptions and the Further Development of Adoption Placement Legislation” (Gesetz zur Regelung von Rechtsfragen auf dem Gebiet der internationalen Adoption und zur Weiterentwicklung des Adoptionsvermittlungsrechts), which entered into force on 1 January 2002. It does not only provide for the rules governing the execution of the Convention, it also introduces important new provisions regarding the adoption placement process and especially the process in case of inter-country adoptions involving non-signatories of the Convention.

Pursuant to the Convention, the German national authorities involved are the Office of the Chief Federal Prosecutor (Generalbundesanwalt) at the Federal Court of Justice (Bundesgerichtshof) in its capacity as Federal Central Agency for Inter-Country Adoptions (Bundeszentralstelle für Auslandsadoption) and the central adoption agencies of the Land Youth Offices.
The following agencies have the right to act in inter-country adoption placement processes:
- the central adoption agencies of the Land Youth Offices,
- certified private inter-country placement agencies; the decision on their certification is the responsibility of the Land Youth Office in whose district the placement agency is located, and
- the local adoption placement unit of a Youth Office insofar as the Land Youth Office has granted permission to this unit to act in inter-country adoption placements.

The Effectiveness of Adoptions Act (Adoptionswirkungsgesetz) has newly introduced a process for the recognition of an adoption pronounced abroad. It is the first Act to provide for binding rulings for and against any party so that an adoption in another country will become effective in Germany.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/advermig_1976/.

Alkopopsteuergesetz (AlkopopStG)
(Alcopop Taxation Act)

Act on the Introduction of a Special Tax on Alcoholic Soft Drinks (Alcopops) for the Protection of Young Persons (Alcopop Taxation Act – AlkopopStG)

The Alcopop Taxation Act entered into force on 1 July 2004. It rules that alcoholic soft drinks (alcopops) in the taxation territory will be subject to a special tax for the protection of young persons. The taxation territory is the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, excluding the area of Büsingen and the island of Heligoland.

The special tax will be levied exclusively on alcopops, which are produced by adding spirits or spirit-containing products. The objective of the Act is to reduce the consumption of alcopops by increasing their prices, and the Act includes a mandatory labelling provision saying that these products may not be sold to persons below the age of 18.

The alcopop tax is an excise duty as defined by the Fiscal Code. The definition of alcopops also includes industrially produced mixers, when they are contained in a single drinks package.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/alkopopstg/.
Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz (AGG)
(General Non-Discrimination Act)

General Non-Discrimination Act (AGG) of 14 August 2006 as amended by Art. 8 Para. 1 of the Act of 2 December 2006

The General Non-Discrimination Act (Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG) entered into force on 18 August 2006. The Act ensures the transposition of four EU Equality Directives and provides for a more sustainable protection of persons with disabilities against disadvantages under the Labour Code and for protection against disadvantages under the Civil Code. In mass transactions and private insurance matters, the AGG Act lays down the principles prohibiting unjustified inequalities in transactions with persons with disabilities.

The purpose of this legislation is to ban or abolish discrimination based on race or ethnic origin, gender, religious or ideological affiliation, disability, age or sexual identity.

In line with the rules provided by the Directives, the AGG’s core provides protection against discrimination in employment or occupational matters. In addition to a ban on discrimination in all matters governed by the Labour Code and its exemption clauses, the Act introduces employer obligations regarding protection against discrimination and employee rights (right to complain, right to deny services) as well as claims in the event of violations against the discrimination ban (compensation, damages).

The AGG also includes provisions excluding disadvantages in transactions under civil law. In addition to a ban on discrimination under civil law for reasons of race or ethnic origin, the Act also provides for a gender-specific discrimination ban. But pursuant to the European legislative provisions, it only applies to mass transactions and private-law insurance.

The text of the Act is available at: [http://bundesrecht.juris.de/agg/](http://bundesrecht.juris.de/agg/).

Aufstiegsfortbildungsförderungsgesetz (AFBG)
(Career Development Assistance Act)

Career Development Assistance Act (AFBG) in the version published on 10 January 2002, last amended by Art. 84 of the Ordinance of 31 October 2006

The Career Development Assistance Act (AFBG) – the so-called “master craftsman’s study loans” – is jointly funded by the Federation and the Länder and entered into force on 1 January 2002. It introduces an individual entitlement to student loans for training courses for vocational career development, i.e. train-
ing courses for master craftsmen and other courses preparing for a comparable further training certificate.

Those so-called “master craftsman’s study loans (Meister-BAföG)” support the extension and development of vocational qualifications, and thus strengthen the motivation of junior specialists to follow further education courses. In addition to a partial waiver of loan repayment, it also offers an incentive for potential young entrepreneurs so that they can establish their own enterprises and create jobs when their further education is completed.

The “AFBG Amendment Act” primarily introduces the following improvements. It
- considerably extends the group of student loan recipients and the scope of these loans by including a larger number of further education courses, especially in the health care and nursing care sectors; courses at nationally approved further education institutes, media-based further education and a more generous funding of a second further education course.
- clearly improves the loan conditions for all participants of career development courses.
- develops a family-related component by increasing the maintenance benefits for children, granting a higher childcare allowance to single parents, facilitating loan deferments and waivers for low-income loan recipients with children, and more widely recognizing childcare obligations, when the loan/grant period is determined.
- provides stronger incentives for young entrepreneurs to set up their own business after completing their further education. It provides for a higher loan component being waived, longer deadlines for establishing the business and recruiting employees, recognizing a higher tax-free asset base and previously established businesses as well as temporary, part-time or low-paid full-time employment.
- facilitates loan conditions for foreign specialists living in Germany by shortening the required employment and residence period.
- significantly simplifies the application and approval procedures for the loan by opting for a single application and grants procedure for the entire duration of the education course, it offers an accelerated short-term procedure for granting loans and applies the general procedural principles of the Social Code.

The Act represents a comprehensive funding instrument for further vocational education in all occupational areas. It provides loans/grants to craftsmen and other specialists preparing for a further education certificate as master craftsman or industrial master craftsman, technician, specialised sales certificate, specialist nursing certificate, industrial IT specialists, programmers, commercial specialists or a comparable type of vocational education, when the appli-
cants are holders of an approved and completed initial training certificate as defined in the Federal Vocational Education Act (Berufsbildungsgesetz, BBiG) or the Trades Code (Handwerksordnung, HwO) or a comparable vocational training certificate.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/afbg/.

**Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz (BGG)**
(Act on Equality for People with Disabilities)

*Act on Equality for People with Disabilities (Equality for People with Disabilities Act – BGG) of 27 April 2002, last amended by Art. 262 of the Ordinance of 31 October 2006*

The purpose of this Act is to abolish and prevent any discrimination against persons with disabilities, to ensure equal participation of persons with disabilities in the life of our society and to enable them to lead self-determined life, whilst duly taking account of their special needs. The Act stipulates that the special concerns of women with disabilities have to be taken into account and that their special disadvantages have to be overcome in order to bring about equality between men and women in our society.

Pursuant to this Act, individuals are considered as disabled when there is a high probability that their physical functions, intellectual ability or mental health deviates from the typical state at a given age and when their participation in the life of our society is restricted as a result.

The Act defines the term ‘barrier-free’, determines the content of actions to create a barrier-free environment and to attain the agreed targets, and it provides for representation powers in proceedings under administrative law or the Social Code.

The Act provides for the appointment of a Commissioner for the Interests of Persons with Disabilities (Beauftragter für die Belange behinderter Menschen) by the Federal Government and defines his/her responsibilities and powers.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bgg/.
**Berufsbildungsförderungsgesetz (BerBiFG)**
(Promotion of Vocational Education Act)

*Promotion of Vocational Education Act (BerBiFG) of 23 December 1981, last amended on 9 July 2001*

The Act determines the objectives of vocational education planning, holds the Federal Government responsible for submitting an annual vocational education report, establishes the principles for vocational education statistics and defines the responsibilities of the Federal Institute for Vocational Education (Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung). The Federal Institute for Vocational Education works under the legal supervision of the competent Federal Minister.

The Act applies to vocational education (initial vocational education, further vocational education, vocational retraining), unless such education is provided in vocational education schools, which are within the scope of the Schools Acts of the Länder.


**Berufsbildungsgesetz (BBiG)**
(Vocational Education Act)

*Vocational Education Act of 23 March 2005, at last amended by Art. 9b of the Act of 7 September 2007*

The German system of dual vocational education enjoys worldwide recognition and is considered as a model. The objective of the Vocational Education Reform Act (Berufsbildungsreformgesetz), which entered into force on 1 April 2005, is to ensure the training opportunities for young individuals and to guarantee a higher quality of their vocational training – irrespective of their social or regional origin.

With the revision of the Vocational Education Act on 1 April 2005, young people with or without a migration background are offered new perspectives for their vocational education. The BBiG reform improves the conditions for co-operation between all partners in the dual training system. Among other elements, it also creates an opportunity to admit graduates of full-time vocational training schools and other non-company training courses to the certificate exams set by the Chambers of Industry and Commerce or the Crafts Chambers.
§ 1 of the Act containing the “Vocational education objectives and definitions” provides the basis for the regulatory system governing vocational education, and its definition of the generic term “vocational education” includes preparatory courses for vocational education courses, vocational education courses as such, further vocational education as well as vocational retraining.

The Act also determines that the vocational education course must be a structured training course and impart the necessary vocational skills, knowledge and abilities (vocational qualifications), which are needed to perform a qualified occupation in our changing world of work. In this context, vocational education must enable the trainee to acquire the necessary work experience.

The Act also defines the places in which vocational education is provided, and its applicability to vocational education, unless that education is provided in vocational education schools, which are within the scope of the Schools Acts of the Länder. In addition to the recognition of training courses and certificates, the Act contains provisions on the testing of new vocational training certificate courses as well as the various types of vocational education and examinations.

The amendments entering into force on 1 April 2007 also include provisions on the further development of vocational education statistics.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bbig_2005/.

Betäubungsmittelgesetz (BtMG)
(Narcotics Act)

Act on Transactions Involving Narcotics (Narcotics Act – BtMG) of 1 March 1994, last amended by Art. 1 of the Ordinance of 14 February 2007

The Act defines the terms (narcotics, substances, preparations and other terms) and empowers the Federal Government and the Federal Minister of Health to amend or to extend the list of substances and preparations when this is necessary because of the extent of abusive consumption and because of a direct or indirect threat to human health.

The Act also determines the obligations in handling and marketing narcotics, includes rules for their supervision, determines the rules for public authorities and defines offences, sentences as well as administrative offences.

- Pursuant to the Act, a person over the age of 21 who unlawfully supplies or dispenses or hands over narcotics to a person under the age of 18 for direct consumption, commits an offence which is punishable by a prison sentence of not less than one year.

- A person who unlawfully cultivates, produces, trades in, imports or exports narcotics as a member of a gang which has been formed for a persistent
perpetration of such acts, commits an offence which is punishable by a prison sentence of not less than five years.
- A person over the age of 21 is likewise deemed to have committed a punishable offence when such a person instructs another person below the age of 18 to engage in the unlawful trade in, to import without trading in, to export, to sell, to hand over or otherwise market narcotics.

In case of a juvenile sentence, the respective provisions of the Juvenile Courts Act and the Code of Penal Procedure apply.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/btmg_1981/.

**Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz (BAföG)**
*(Federal Education and Training Assistance Act)*


The Act establishes a legal right to assistance for education and training which is to be in line with an individual’s inclination, aptitude and performance, when funding is not otherwise available to the trainee.

Training and education assistance is granted for attendance at:
- higher schools of general education and vocational colleges including all grades above grade 10 in all types of basic vocational training,
- all technical college and specialised technical academy grades when attendance does not depend on a completed vocational training course (with the eligibility proviso in case of assistance pursuant to § 2 subs. 1 a),
- all vocational and technical college grades when attendance does not require a completed vocational training course and when the completion of a training course of no less than two years ends in a vocational training certificate,
- all technical college and specialised technical academy grades when attendance requires a completed vocational training course,
- classes at night grade schools, advanced professional training schools, night secondary schools, night grammar schools and technical colleges,
- higher technical colleges and academies,
- universities and polytechnics.

The Act determines the personal requirements for education and training assistance and lays down the duration and scope of such assistance, which is granted for individual subsistence and training. The Act also determines the type of ed-
ucation and training assistance. Assistance is granted as a non-refundable grant or loan. The Act also determines the means of repayment in case of loans.

With the draft Amendment of the Federal Education and Training Assistance Act (Änderung des Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetzes, 22. BAFöGÄndG) of July 2007, the Federal Government wishes to increase the educational effectiveness of federal education and training assistance. The introduction of a childcare supplement, in particular, is intended to facilitate the reconciliation of training and education on the one hand and childcare on the other; the integration of young individuals with a migration background is improved; the trainee’s own responsibility is strengthened by raising the earnings threshold to a uniform amount of EUR 400, and the internationality of education and training is enhanced by extending the assistance’s scope to courses of study abroad.

The purpose of these changes is to improve the individual’s education and training opportunities and to contribute to a secure supply of junior professionals and skilled employees in Germany. The draft legislation is also meant to contribute to a further reduction in bureaucracy in the execution of the Federal Education and Training Assistance Act.

The amendment of Volume III of the Social Code, which resulted from the 22nd Amendment of the Federal Education and Training Assistance Act, includes a definition of the groups eligible for assistance. These groups include: Germans, nationals of other Member States of the European Union, spouses and children of citizens of the European Union, nationals of other signatories of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Area, foreign nationals with a habitual residence in Germany, homeless foreign nationals pursuant to the Act on the Legal Situation of Homeless Foreign Nationals in the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as other foreign nationals with habitual residence in Germany.

The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act creates a uniform foundation nationwide for an individual’s education and training assistance in view of assuring equal opportunities in the German education system.

The website www.das-neue-bafoeg.de of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung) includes the text of the Federal Education and Training Assistance Act as well as rules, examples, the texts of related Acts, the necessary information and the forms (application forms) needed to apply for assistance.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/baf_g/.
**Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz (BEEG)**
(Federal Parenting Benefit and Parental Leave Act)

*Federal Parenting Benefit and Parental Leave Act of 5 December 2006, as amended by Art. 6 Para. 8 of the Act of 19 August 2007*

The Act on Parenting Benefit and Parental Leave (Federal Parenting Benefit and Parental Leave Act – BEEG) applies to births after 1 January 2007. The parenting benefit is a tax-funded transfer payment to families with small children and replaces the parental allowance as of 1 January 2007. It does not provide permanent assistance; instead it is granted only for the 12 to 14 months directly following the birth of the child. The amount of parenting benefit depends on the parent’s income and is regarded as a temporary wage/salary replacement.

The Parenting Benefit Act supports young families in the decisive phase after the birth of a child. On the one hand, there is a compensation for the lost income of the parents in this phase. The Act provides assistance so that both parents are able to secure their economic existence and to avoid permanent losses and the risk of becoming dependent on state transfer payments; the Act also provides for freedom of choice between family and employment and promotes economic self-sufficiency.

On the other hand, the Act creates an incentive so that fathers will take a share of the parental leave and mothers will return to employment. Due to its structure as a wage/salary replacement, it is no longer primarily a matter of a parent earning less money and therefore taking parental leave when the parents discharge their parental and childcare responsibilities. The two-month leave for the partner is also an incentive to consider the child’s up-bringing as the joint responsibility of both parents. The parents can choose which parent, which amount and for which period a parent claims parental leave during the potential assistance period of 14 months.

With the further extension of childcare facilities for all age groups, parents continue to have an opportunity of reconciling the child’s education and their own employment when the period of the parenting benefit comes to an end.

The formal rules on parental leave continue to apply. The former rules apply to children born prior to 1 January 2007, and childcare benefit continues to be available.

The text of the Act is available at: [http://bundesrecht.juris.de/beeg/](http://bundesrecht.juris.de/beeg/).
**Bundeserziehungsgeldgesetz (BerzGG)**
(Federal Childcare Allowance Act)

*Act on Childcare Allowance and Parental Leave (Federal Childcare Allowance Act - BerzGG) in the version published or 9 February 2004, as amended by Art. 3 of the Act of 13 December 2006*

The reform of the Federal Childcare Allowance Act is one of the key elements of family policy and facilitates the parents’ reconciliation of family and employment as well as their joint care for the child.

The most important concern in the revision of the Act is to extend the scope of opportunities for parents taking care of small children. Parents can take parental leave jointly from the first day after the child’s birth to his/her third birthday. By a legal entitlement to part-time work, fathers are given an opportunity to share childcare responsibilities. At the same time, women are given greater opportunities to keep in touch with the world of work through part-time employment during the period of parental leave.

The Act stipulates the prerequisites for the childcare allowance, the income ceiling, the beginning and the end of the childcare allowance entitlement, as well as the parent’s right of protection against dismissal.

The text of the Act is available at: [http://bundesrecht.juris.de/berzgg/](http://bundesrecht.juris.de/berzgg/).

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**Bundesgleichstellungsgesetz (BGleiG)**
(Federal Gender Equality Act)


The Federal Gender Equality Act for Federal Authorities/Agencies and Federal Courts, which entered into force on 5 December 2007, creates equality of women and men, abolishes existing and prevents future discrimination on the basis of gender. Another objective of the Act is an improved work-life balance for men and women. The Act takes into account the special concerns of women with a disability or women at risk of disability.

Pursuant to this Act, women will be especially promoted to reduce their existing disadvantages. The Act distinguishes between direct and indirect discrimination against women.
Among other provisions, the Act includes rules on:
- the scope, which is extended to federal agencies under private law and, by way of contracts, to federally-owned companies at the time of their privatisation, as well as institutional recipients of federal benefits;
- quotas applying in specific cases;
- the extensive rights and responsibilities of equality commissioners;
- an explicit and concrete prohibition also of indirect discrimination;
- specifications for more effective equal opportunity plans even during personnel and staff roster cuts; and
- improved rules on the reconciliation of family and employment.

The Equal Opportunity Reports of the Federal Government to the Bundestag will continue to be the most significant controlling instrument; the reports will include a specific focus on model equal opportunity projects in federal agencies and authorities as examples of good practice.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bgleig/.

**Bundeskindergeldgesetz (BKGG)**
*(Federal Child Benefit Act)*

**Federal Child Benefit Act (BKGG) in the version published on 17 July 2007**

The monthly child benefit amounts to EUR 154 for the first, second and third child respectively, and it amounts to EUR 179 per month for the fourth and any further child.

Pursuant to the Federal Child Benefit Act, child benefit is paid for the children of individuals who are not defined as unconditionally taxable pursuant to § 1 subs. 1 and 2 of the Income Tax Act and are not treated as being unconditionally taxable pursuant to § 1 subs. 3 of the Income Tax Act, and
- who have a compulsory insurance relationship with the Federal Labour Agency pursuant to § 24 of Book III of the Social Code, or are exempt from compulsory insurance pursuant to § 28, No. 1 of Book III of the Social Code, or
- receive maintenance payments as development assistance workers pursuant to § 4 subs. 1, No.1 of the Development Assistance Workers Act (Entwicklungshelfer-Gesetz) or work as missionaries in missions or missionary societies which are affiliated to or contractual partners of the Protestant Mission Hamburg (Evangelisches Missionswerk Hamburg), the Working Group of Protestant Missions (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelischer Missionen e.V.), the German Catholic Mission Council (Deutscher katholischer Missionsrat)
or the Working Group of Pentecostal/Charismatic Missions (Arbeitsgemein-
schaft pfingstlich-charismatischer Missionen), or

– work in a facility outside Germany on the basis of a secondment pursuant to § 123a of the Federal Civil Service Framework Act (Beamtenrechtsrahmenge-
setz), or

– are spouses of a member of the military or the civilian component of a NATO
member state, nationals of an EU/EEA Member State and have their domi-
cile or habitual residence in Germany.

Furthermore, child benefit is paid to a person in his/her own right when he/
she

– has his/her domicile or habitual residence in Germany,

– is orphaned or does not know the habitual residence of his/her parents, and

– is not considered as a child of another person.

Parents who live in Germany and are unconditionally subjected to German in-
come taxation receive child benefits as a tax credit pursuant to sections 62 et
seq. of the Income Tax Act (EStG).

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bkgg_1996/.

**Bundesnichtraucherschutzgesetz, (BNichtrSchG)**
*(Federal Protection of Non-Smokers Act)*

**Act on Protection against Risks Created by Passive Smoking (Federal Protection of Non-Smokers Act – BNichtrSchG) of 20 July 2007**

The Federal Protection of Non-Smokers Act entered into force on 1 September
2007. Employees of federal authorities and public transport passengers are now
given a legal right to protection against passive smoking. The age limit for the
sale of tobacco products to young persons is simultaneously raised from 16 to
18 years.

As of 1 September 2007, there is a general smoking ban in all public buildings
of the Federation including all its constitutional bodies as well as all public trans-
port vehicles and public railway stations. If a sufficient number of rooms are
available, special rooms may be made available to smokers. It is now unlawful
for young people to buy tobacco products.

The smoking ban is to be adequately posted pursuant to section 1 of the Act.
The creation of smoking areas and the notification duties are the responsibili-
ty of the keyholder of the building or the public transport operator. It is unlawful
for any individual to smoke in violation of the provisions of the law. This administrative offence is punishable by a fine.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bnichtrschg/.

**Entwicklungshelfer-Gesetz (EhfG)**  
(Development Assistance Workers Act)

*Development Assistance Workers Act (EhfG) of 18 June 1969, last amended by Art. 35 of the Act of 24 December 2003*

The core of the Act is social security for development assistance workers and their families. Pursuant to the Act, a development assistance worker is any person having reached the age of 18 and being engaged in non-profit activities in developing countries to assist in the progress of these countries by partnership and co-operation (development assistance service), when this person only receives the benefits provided by the present Act.

A provider of development assistance services will be approved upon application by the Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation (Bundesminister für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit). As defined by the Act, such a provider has to conclude a written agreement with the development assistance worker on development assistance services and the preparatory services; this agreement is to guarantee the benefits provided by the Act (maintenance allowance and benefits in kind for the worker’s subsistence, re-integration benefits, reimbursement of necessary travel expenses, as well as obligations which are incumbent upon the employer pursuant to the Federal Leave Act (Bundesurlaubsgesetz) and the Maternity Protection Act (Mutterschutzgesetz).

At the end of his/her development assistance, the development assistance worker can demand a written certificate of employment stating the nature and the duration of his/her development service and the preparatory period. Persons seeking new employment at the end of their development service are to be placed and assisted, while the special experience and knowledge which the person acquired during the development and the preparatory service is duly taken into account.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/ehfg/.
EQI-Programm-Richtlinie (EQJR)
(EQJ Programme Directive)


With the Special Programme for Entry-Level Qualification, the Federal Government supports the efforts of the partners in the “National pact for training and junior skilled employees in Germany” (Nationaler Pakt für Ausbildung und Fachkräftenaufwuchs in Deutschland). Labour Agencies may reimburse up to EUR 192 per month towards the work experience allowance paid to a young person by a company, and the Agency may also pay a lump-sum social security premium. The Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales) has meanwhile extended the programme by another year until the end of 2008 and, starting in October 2006, it increased the number of available positions to 40,000. Details on the implementation of the special programme are laid down in the EQJ Programme Directive.


Gesetz zur Einführung eines Alkoholverbots für Fahranfänger und Fahranfängerinnen (FAAlkVerbotG)
(Act on the Introduction of an Alcohol Ban for New Driving License Holders)


The new Act on the Introduction of an Alcohol Ban for New Driving License Holders (FAAlkVerbotG) entered into force on 19 July 2007. Its objective is the introduction of an alcohol ban for drivers during their probationary period by adding a clause in the Road Traffic Act (Straßenverkehrsgesetz), the Road Cargo Transport Act (Güterkraftverkehrsgesetz), the Driving Licence Ordinance (Fahrerlaubnis-Verordnung) and the List of Traffic Violation Fines Ordinance (Bußgeldkatalog-Verordnung).

The alcohol ban is intended to reduce the number of alcohol-induced traffic accidents involving new drivers. It applies to all drivers during their (regular) two-year probationary period and to all young drivers before they reach the age of 21.
Violations of this ban are punishable by a fine of up to EUR 1,000 and two points in the Central Register of Traffic Offenders (Verkehrszentralregister). Furthermore, new drivers committing the offence during their probationary period may have their probationary period extended by another two years, and they may be ordered to attend a remedial seminar at a cost of up to EUR 200.

The text of the Act is available at: www.bgblerportal.de/BGBL/bgbl1f/bgbl107s1460.pdf.

**Fernunterrichtschutzgesetz (FernUSG)**
(Distance Learning Protection Act)

*Act for the Protection of Participants in Distance Learning Courses (Distance Learning Protection Act – FernUSG) of 4 December 2000, last amended by Art. 4 No. 3 of the Act of 23 March 2005*

Pursuant to the Act, distance learning is the teaching of knowledge and skills on the basis of a contractual relationship and against remuneration when the teacher and the student are constantly or predominantly found at different geographical locations and when the teacher or his/her representative supervise the course outcome.

The Act lays down rules for the form and the content of the distance learning agreement and determines the rights and obligations of the contracting parties. It contains rules for the approval of distance learning courses in general and distance learning courses for vocational education in particular, and it also sets the framework for free distance learning courses for vocational education.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/fernusg/.

**Acts on the Promotion of a Voluntary Community Service Year (FSJ) or a Voluntary Ecological Service Year (FÖJ)**


- *Act on the Promotion of a Voluntary Ecological Service Year (Gesetz zur Förderung eines freiwilligen ökologischen Jahres) in the version published on 15 Ju-

Persons wishing to commit themselves to a statutory voluntary service have an opportunity of enrolling in a voluntary community service year or voluntary ecological service year. This service year can not only be performed in the traditional social facilities, but also in youth work areas involving sports, culture – in libraries, museums or music projects – or the preservation of historic monuments. It is likewise possible to do the voluntary service outside Europe. The voluntary service year may be taken directly after graduation from school, a minimum age is no longer required. Voluntary service in Germany may be extended by six additional months after completing the initial 12-month period.

Starting in 2008, a voluntary service year may also be performed in development assistance projects.

Instead of a period of civic service, recognized conscientious objectors may also enrol in a 12-month statutory voluntary service with an approved service provider. Approval as a provider of voluntary community service years or voluntary ecological service years (FSJ/FÖJ) – irrespective of a placement in Germany or abroad – is granted by the responsible authorities of the Land (Ministries/Senates).

At present, the draft legislation by the Federal Government on the promotion of youth volunteer services is currently in the consultation stages of the Bundestag and the Bundesrat. This legislation will provide a uniform legislative basis for the former Act on the Promotion of a Voluntary Community Service Year and the Act on the Promotion of a Voluntary Ecological Service Year, and it will enhance the educational character of the youth volunteer service.

The text of the FSJ Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/sozdig/.
The text of the FÖJ Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/f_jfg/.

**Gewaltschutzgesetz (GewSchG)**
*(Protection against Violence Act)*


This Act protects the victims of domestic violence especially by giving them an opportunity to use the family home without having to share it with the perpetrator. Such restraining orders are handed down by the Civil Law Courts upon a motion by the victim. Violence as defined by the Protection against Violence Act includes all intentional and unlawful injuries to the physical well-being,
health or freedom of another person irrespective of the fact that such acts are committed in or outside the joint household.

Proceedings before the Family Court under the Protection against Violence Act do not legally require representation by counsel. The required motions may be filed in writing by the applicant or filed for the record at the office responsible for legal motions of the Family Court which has jurisdiction.

The Court (Local Court/Family Court) may grant restraining orders against the perpetrator to protect the victim. Such protection orders may include the following prohibitions, for example:

- entering the apartment of the injured person;
- approaching the apartment of the victim up to a distance defined by the Court;
- frequenting places which are regularly frequented by the victim (these include the victim’s workplace, the kindergarten or the school of the victim’s children as well as leisure facilities used by the victim);
- attempting to establish contacts with the injured person (this applies to all types of contacts by telephone, fax, letter or e-mail);
- arranging encounters with the victim (if such encounters occur unplanned, the perpetrator has to leave immediately).

Like any ruling by a civil-law court, the assignment of the apartment or the restraining order may be subject to compulsory execution.

The Protection against Violence Act does not apply to children who have been abused by their parents. In such cases, the special provisions of the Acts Governing Relations Between Parents and Children or the Guardianship Act apply, which provide for actions taken by the Family Court with the involvement of the Youth Office.

The text of the Act is available at: [http://bundesrecht.juris.de/gewschg/](http://bundesrecht.juris.de/gewschg/).

**Jugendarbeitsschutzgesetz (JArbSchG)**

(Protection of Young Persons at Work Act)

*Act for the Protection of Young Persons in Employment (Protection of Young Persons at Work Act – JArbSchG) of 12 April 1976, last amended on 31 October 2006*

The Protection of Young Persons at Work Act applies to the employment of young people below the age of 18. Pursuant to the Act, a young person is an individual over the age of 15 but below the age of 18. Children are young persons below the age of 15. The provisions for children apply to young persons attend-
ing a full-time school. Depending on the Land, full-time school attendance is either nine or ten school years.

The Protection of Young Persons at Work Act protects children and young persons against forms of employment which start too early, are too long, are physically too exhausting, constitute a threat to or are inappropriate for young persons. Young persons must not be employed for more than eight hours per day or more than 40 hours per week. A five-day week also applies to youth. Youth employees must be granted breaks and sufficient time-off for recovery. As a matter of principle, young persons may not perform hazardous work.

The Act prohibits all child labour. Children having reached the age of 13 and young persons attending full-time school may be employed for light and suitable work under certain conditions. Permissible activities are included in a comprehensive list in the Protection of Children at Work Ordinance (Kinderarbeitsschutzverordnung). There are further exemptions for certain events and work in the media.

The implementation of the Protection of Young Persons at Work Act is the responsibility of the Länder. It will be executed by the competent Länder authorities for occupational health and safety (such as the Health and Safety Inspectores, Occupational Health and Safety Agencies). The occupational health and safety authorities are also responsible for supervising compliance with the provisions of the Act and for providing counselling to the parties concerned.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/jarbschg/.

*Kinderarbeitsschutzverordnung (KindArbSchV)*

(Protection of Children at Work Ordinance)

*Ordinance for the Protection of Children at Work (KindArbSchV) of 23 June 1998*

The Ordinance determines that children above the age of 13 and young persons attending full-time school must not be employed, unless the Protection of Young Persons at Work Act and the Ordinance for the Protection of Children at Work contain exemptions. The Ordinance defines the exemptions and the types of activity that constitute unsuitable employment. Other conditions for permitted forms of employment are defined in the *Protection of Young Persons at Work Act*.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/kindarbschw/.
Jugendgerichtsgesetz (JGG)  
(Juvenile Courts Act)

Juvenile Courts Act in the version published on 11 December 1974, last amended by Art. 3 of the Act of 13 April 2007

The Act applies when a young person or adolescent commits an offence which is punishable under generally applicable rules and regulations. Pursuant to the provisions of the Act, a young person is any person who is 14 but not yet 18 years of age at the time of the offence; an adolescent is any person who is 18 but not yet 21 years of age at the time of the offence.

As defined by the Act, a juvenile is responsible under the Criminal Code, when he/she shows a sufficiently mature moral and mental state of development at the time of the offence so that he/she recognizes the unlawfulness of the offence and is able to act in line with that recognition. For the education of a young individual who is not sufficiently mature to be called responsible under the Criminal Code, the judge may order the same sanctions as a family judge or a judge at the Guardianship Court.

The Act includes provisions on the structure of Juvenile Courts, Juvenile Court Services and Probation Services. It gives the Juvenile Justice Prosecutor and the Juvenile Court Judge an opportunity to grant a stay of proceedings or to order educational sanctions (diversions). The Juvenile Criminal Code includes sanctions such as instructions, disciplinary measures and juvenile custody.

Instructions are prohibitions and orders concerning the life of the young offender, and they are intended to support and to ensure his/her education.

When juvenile custody is unwarranted, but it must be urgently made clear to the young offender that he/she has to answer for his/her unlawful offence, the Judge will sanction the offence with a disciplinary order. Disciplinary orders take the form of warnings, restrictions and juvenile custody. Disciplinary orders do not have the legal effect of a sentence.

The Act defines juvenile custody as detention in a young offenders’ institution. The judge will hand down a juvenile custody sentence when the young offender’s harmful tendencies, which were manifest in the offence itself, make educational orders or disciplinary orders insufficient to re-educate a young offender, or when punishment is required because of the severity of the offence.

The minimum sentence for a young offender is six months, the maximum sentence is five years. If the offence is a crime for which the general Criminal Code provides a maximum sentence of more than ten years’ imprisonment, the maximum sentence is ten years.

Offences committed by young offenders are heard in Juvenile Courts. Juvenile Courts sit with a Criminal Court Judge acting as Juvenile Court Judge or with a panel of one professional judge and two lay judges (Juvenile Jury), or at
the Court’s Criminal Division (Juvenile Division). Juvenile Justice Prosecutors will be appointed for proceedings in which the Juvenile Courts have jurisdiction. Juvenile Court Judges and Juvenile Justice Prosecutors must show educational abilities and be experienced in youth education.

Juvenile Court Services are implemented by the Youth Offices in cooperation with youth service associations.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/jgg/.

**Bill Amending the Juvenile Courts Act**

On 8 August 2007, the cabinet adopted a bill amending the Juvenile Courts Act. With this legislative project, legal protection in the juvenile penal system is given a structure which is appropriate to youth.

The planned new provisions reflect some specifications which were handed down in rulings of the Federal Constitutional Court. In its ruling of 31 May 2006, the Court called upon the legislature to change the juvenile corrections system by introducing legal recourse provisions which correspond to the special situation of juvenile inmates. Since the reform of the Federal system entered into force in September 2006, the Länder have had the legislative powers for the prison system. But the Federation continues to be the competent legislator in matters of legal protection by the Court.

In future, Juvenile Divisions will normally hand down rulings pronounced by a single judge. In cases of fundamental significance and in case of specific difficulties on a point of law, the judge will submit the matter to the Juvenile Division for a decision or as a referral. In future, inmates in the juvenile prison system will have a right to a hearing. And the Länder are given an opportunity to introduce mediation proceedings prior to a court hearing. They are also considered as a means to ease the courts’ caseload.

In future, a juvenile inmate disagreeing with the disciplinary measure taken against him/her, for example, can present his/her arguments and objections in a personal hearing. This hearing will normally be held in the custody centre itself, or it will be a hearing before the Juvenile Division. The prisoner therefore has an opportunity to present his/her concerns directly. And the court is given an opportunity to explain to the complainant orally the probability of a successful legal remedy and his/her legal situation. This will lead to a quicker conclusion of many cases.

The Juvenile Courts Act is also extended to include a specific provision defining the objectives of juvenile criminal law. Pursuant to the Act, its primary purpose is to prevent repeat offences of juvenile (14- to 17-year-old) and adolescent (18- to 20-year old) offenders.
The “Second Act amending the Juvenile Courts Act and related Legislation” (Zweites Gesetz zur Änderung des Jugendgerichtsgesetzes und anderer Gesetze) was adopted by the Bundestag on 13 December 2007 and entered into force on 1 January 2008.

The text of the Act is available at: http://www.bgblportal.de/BGBL/bgbl1f/bgbl107s2894.pdf.

Bill Introducing Retroactive Orders of Preventive Detention for Sentences Under Juvenile Criminal Law

On 18 July 2007, the Cabinet adopted a bill by the Federal Ministry of Justice on the preventive detention of youth offenders. In future, youth offenders who have committed the most serious criminal offences and are regarded as very dangerous even after their custodial sentence may be taken into preventive custody.

Preventive custody is one of the severest sanctions provided by German criminal law. It prevents the release of an offender after a custodial sentence, even though the offender has completed the custody term imposed by the court. Against this background, preventive detention must always be a last resort, i.e. it may only be applied when there is no other means of protecting the general public. This applies even more in case of young persons whose personality is not yet completely developed and whose entire life is still before them.

The bill is intended for rare and exceptional cases in which young offenders commit serious crimes even after they have completed a long custodial sentence. In the past, it was not possible to order preventive custody in such cases. When these offenders are a serious threat to the public, the court may retroactively order their preventive custody in the same way as is done in case of adult offenders.

The legal prerequisites prescribed in the bill introduce new provisions in section 7 of the Juvenile Courts Act (JGG) which stipulate that

- a young offender must have been convicted of the most serious criminal offences against another person’s life, physical integrity or sexual self-determination or for robbery and blackmail, if they result in death,
- a juvenile criminal law sentence of no less than seven years must have been imposed on the offender,
- the criminal offence resulted in serious mental or physical damage or risks to the victim,
- the court, based on a full assessment including two expert opinions, is of the opinion that the probability is high for the offender to be a threat in future.
For such criminal offences, the bill creates an opportunity for a retroactive order of preventive custody under juvenile criminal law in cases in which commital to a psychiatric hospital is about to end, but it is assumed that the offender's high level of risk will persist. In such cases the prerequisites are generally identical to the existing rules for adult and adolescent offenders who are sentenced under the general Criminal Code.

**Jugendschutzgesetz (JuSchG)**

*(Protection of Young Persons Act)*


This Act merges the Act on the Protection of Young Persons in Public (Gesetz zum Schutze der Jugend in der Öffentlichkeit, JÖSchG) and the Act on the Distribution of Documents and Media which are Morally Harmful to Youth (Gesetz über die Verbreitung jugendgefährdender Schriften und Medieninhalte, GjS) to a single Act on the Protection of Young Persons (Jugendschutzgesetz, JuSchG).

When the Protection of Young Persons Act entered into force, the Länder Treaty on the Protection of Youth against Morally Harmful Media (Jugendmedienschutz-Staatsvertrag) also became effective and created a single legal basis for the protection of young persons in the electronic media (Internet, TV, radio). By linking the two legislations, it is now assured that the institutions of the Federation and the Länder will decide on the basis of a single protection standard.

Pursuant to the Act, children are persons below the age of 14 and young persons are persons between the ages of 14 and 18. Persons having the care and custody of a child are defined as individuals who, either alone or together with another individual, are entitled to act as the child's custodian pursuant to the provisions of the German Civil Code (BGB). A person with parental authority is any individual over the age of 18 who assumes responsibility for the child's education or is responsible for the child or young person and his/her training or youth services.

The Act's list of protective provisions includes the protection of young persons in public such as their presence in pubs and restaurants, attendance at dances, amusement arcades, gambling, their presence at places dangerous to youth, smoking in public, the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products as well as the protection of young persons in the media such as their attendance at film showings and cinemas, the classification of films, video media or game software and electronic game consoles, and finally the classification of carrier media which are morally harmful to young people.
The Act also includes provisions on the proceedings of the Federal Monitoring Agency for Media which are Morally Harmful to Youth (Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Medien) and the compilation of the list of morally harmful media.

The prohibitions were extended and tightened up for those media which constitute a severe moral threat to youth and especially for violent media. As a result and even without a rating awarded by the Federal Monitoring Agency, there is a comprehensive ban on the sale, distribution and advertising of carrier media (such as books, video CDs, CD-ROMs and DVDs) which glorify war, present persons such in a way as to violate their dignity, or show young persons in unnatural or deliberately sexual postures.

The powers of the Federal Monitoring Agency for Media which are Morally Harmful to Youth were extended. In addition to the traditional media, it can now also put all new media – with the exception of broadcasts – on the index. And the indexing proceedings are subject to new rules defined by the Act. The Federal Monitoring Agency may now act ex officio and upon suggestions of certain agencies or offices to ensure that, insofar as possible, all products constituting a moral threat to youth will be put on the list of the Federal Monitoring Agency.

Amendments of the Protection of Young Persons Act entered into force on 1 September 2007. The most significant amendments are:
- § 10 of the Protection of Young Persons Act is amended. The age limit for selling tobacco products to young people and the non-smoking age were increased: from 16 to 18 years of age. As a result, pubs and restaurants, outlets or any other public facility may not supply children and young persons below the age of 18 with tobacco products, and they may not permit them to smoke.
- A transition period was granted for cigarette vending machines until 31 December 2008. At this time, vending machines must be technically retrofitted so that it will be impossible for children and young persons below the age of 18 to obtain cigarettes.
- Furthermore, it is now unlawful to show tobacco and alcohol advertisements in cinemas before 6.00 p.m.

Violations against the legal provisions contained in the Protection of Young Persons Act may be criminal offences or administrative offences and are punishable by a fine of up to EUR 50,000. For the protection of children and young persons, the competent Länder authorities may impose appropriate sanctions on businesses or event organisers violating the provisions of the Protection of Young Persons Act.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/juschg/.
Jugendmedienschutz-Staatsvertrag der Länder (JMStV)
(Länder Convention on Youth Protection in the Media)

Convention on the Protection of Human Dignity and Youth Protection in Broadcasting and Telecommunications Media (Staatsvertrag über den Schutz der Menschenwürde und den Jugendschutz in Rundfunk und Telemedien) of 10 to 27 September 2002

The Länder Convention on Youth Protection in the Media came into force at the same time as the Protection of Young Persons Act and created a single legal basis for youth protection in the electronic media (Internet, TV, radio). The interaction provisions in both pieces of legislation ensure that the agencies of the Federation and the Länder decide according to uniform protection standards.

The purpose or the objective of the Länder Convention is described in section 1. Pursuant to this section, it ensures the uniform protection of children and youth against electronic information and communication media products which negatively impact on or threaten the development or education of children and youth. This also applies to protection against electronic information and communication media products which violate human dignity or other principles protected by law.

The competences of the Federation and the Länder were newly assigned. Henceforth, the Länder will be responsible for all transmitted electronic media, i.e. telecommunications media and the Internet in addition to the broadcast media.

One important element is strengthening the voluntary self-regulation unit. Decisions by the voluntary self-regulation unit will only be corrected by a supervisory body when the former’s discretionary latitude has been exceeded. A prerequisite for this privilege is, however, that the voluntary self-regulation units are certified by the supervisory body. In order to obtain such a certification, the voluntary self-regulation units must fulfill requirements which are specified in detail in the Länder Convention (especially regarding the appropriate level of personnel and equipment, ensuring the independence of their appointed reviewers and including societal groups – such as the churches – in their review bodies).

Another important element of youth protection on the Internet is the introduction of filter software. If exemptions are granted on the basis of such software, the software needs to be approved by the supervisory body.

At the same time, the fragmentation of competences was abolished, as the supervision by the Länder Media Agencies was reorganised by creating a Commission for Youth Protection in the Media (Kommission für Jugendmedienschutz, KJM), whose members are the six directors of the Länder Media Agencies and six youth protection experts representing the Federation and the
It is the first time that Länders have established a single decision-making body.

jugendschutz.net, the all-Länders control unit created by the Youth Ministries in 1997, was formally established as an agency and associated with the KJM to guarantee the uniform supervision of electronic media. Its responsibilities remain unchanged.


**Law of the Parent and Child (Kindschaftsrecht)**

Rules and provisions concerning the child and his/her relations to his/her family are summarily described as law of parent and child (Kindschaftsrecht). Such provisions include: the child’s descent, his/her custody and access/contact, his/her name, adoption, child maintenance in the associated provisions for court proceedings.

The most significant provisions for these fields of law are contained in the German Civil Code (BGB). As far as judicial matters are concerned, the Code of Civil Procedure (Zivilprozessordnung, ZPO) and the Act on Matters concerned with Non-contentious Litigation (Gesetz über die Angelegenheiten der freiwilligen Gerichtsbarkeit, FGG) contain the most significant provisions.

The new provisions of the Act to Reform the Law of Parent and Child (Gesetz zur Reform des Kindschaftsrechts) entered into force on 1 July 1998. The laws governing the relations between parents and children have been comprehensively revised since 1998. The core of the Relations of Parent and Child Reform Act are the new provisions on parental custody and access/contact rights. Before 1 July 1998, the Family Courts, the Guardianship Courts and the Civil Division of the Local Courts all had partial jurisdiction over legal matters involving relations between parents and children, while the new Act provides for the exclusive jurisdiction of the Family Courts.

Together with the Act to Reform the Law of Parent and Child, two other Acts were promulgated which also concern relations between parents and children.

The Act on Equal Rights of Children Born out of Wedlock in Succession-Law Matters (Gesetz zur erbrechtlichen Gleichstellung nichtehelicher Kinder) has abolished the special provisions on the succession rights of illegitimate children and children born out of wedlock now have the same rights under this law as children born in wedlock.

The Guardianship Act (Beistandschaftsgesetz) abolishes the ex-officio custody of the Youth Office which the previous law established for children born out of wedlock, and introduces a voluntary choice for a single parent
having the custody and care of the child to request the Youth Office’s assistance in paternity and maintenance matters.

The **new provisions on parental custody and access/contact rights (parental custody in the German Civil Code (BGB), Title 5, in the version of 2 January 2002)** are at the core of the Act to Reform the Law of Parent and Child.

Section 1626 of the Civil Code (BGB) stipulates that the parents have the duty and the right to care for their child while a minor (parental custody). Parental custody includes care for the child as a person (personal custody) and for the child’s property (property custody). In the child’s care and education, the parents take the child’s growing abilities and growing need for independent action into account. The child’s well-being normally includes his/her contacts to both parents.

Parents who are not married to one other are entitled to the joint custody of their children if they jointly state this intention at a Youth Office or before a notary.

When married parents share the custody of their children, or unmarried parents have made joint custody statements, the custody status remains unchanged in a separation or divorce, as long as one parent does not file for exclusive custody with the Family Court. Such a motion must be approved if the other parent agrees or when this is the best option for the child’s well-being.

In case of separated parents, joint custody is facilitated by giving the parent who is the child's actual care giver the right to decide alone on matters of the child's everyday life.

With respect to the right of access, the former differentiation between children born in and out of wedlock has been abolished. Pursuant to the new provisions, all fathers have the right of access, which – as it was the case for children born in wedlock – may only be restricted or ruled out when it is necessary for the child's well-being. Other significant persons to whom the child is emotionally attached, e.g. grandparents and siblings, are also given access rights when this is beneficial for the child’s well-being.

Another new provision says that the child him/herself is entitled to contacts with both parents. As a result, the former right of the parents is now turned into a right of the child. Consequently, the Reform Act does not only emphasise the right but also the duty of the individual parent to remain in contact with the child.

The Act amending the rules on paternity disputes, the access right of significant persons for the child, on the registration of precautionary dispositions and on the introduction of forms for the remuneration of professional guardians was adopted by the Bundestag in April 2004. The right of access now applies to persons having a close relationship with the child if these persons either have or had actual responsibility for the child (social or familial attachment). This
actual responsibility for the child will normally be assumed if the person lived with the child in the same household for a prolonged period.

Counselling services of child and youth service providers in custody and access proceedings have been included to support the parents in settling their own conflicts so that all parents will be informed about such services and can therefore use them more extensively and specifically when the need arises.

The Act Condemning Violence in Education and Amending the Child Maintenance Laws (Gesetz zur Ächtung der Gewalt in der Erziehung und zur Änderung des Kindesunterhaltsrechts, GewÄchtG) already entered into force in November 2000. The amended section 1631 subs. 2 of the Civil Code (BGB) states: “Children have a right to non-violent education. Corporal punishment, mental injury and other degrading actions shall not be permissible”. On a highly sensitive issue, i.e. the prohibition of maltreatment, the Act introduces the following provision: The Act specifically determines that physical and mental maltreatment is unlawful, as it is a degrading educational method. Consequently, the “parental right to corporal punishment” was abolished as an argument justifying a bodily injury to a child.

The sexual abuse of children constitutes a form of threat to the child’s well-being. Even though section 1666 Para. 1 of the Civil Code does not list abuse as an independent threat category, it is included in the “abusive exercise of parental custody” category, or it is classified as “dangerous third-party behaviour” when the parents do not intervene to protect the child.

The judicial actions in case of a danger to the child’s well-being are defined in section 1666 of the Civil Code. The Code determines that the Family Court has to take the necessary measures to avert a danger to the child when the physical, psychological or mental well-being of the child or the child’s property are threatened due to an abusive exercise of parental custody, child neglect, non-culpable failure of the parents or third-party actions, when the parents are unwilling or incapable of averting such threats.

**Draft Bill Facilitating Family Court Orders in Case of a Danger to a Child’s Well-being**

On 11 July 2007, the Cabinet approved a Bill by the Federal Ministry of Justice which will facilitate Family Court orders in the case of a danger to the child’s well-being.

The Bill is intended to improve the protection of children at risk. Effective child protection presupposes that Family Courts and Youth Offices exercise their respective duties as a shared responsibility and enhance their mutual awareness of their respective roles. The Bill intends to provide better support through the system of assistance laid down in the child and youth services laws when the
substantive and procedural provisions governing child protection proceedings in the Family Courts are appropriately designed.

As parents neglecting or abusing their children often suffer from excessive stress and are negligent in claiming the necessary services and assistance, the amendments enable the authorities to make parental obligations more binding. Consequently, the Bill includes several amendments which will promote early recourse to the Family Courts and enable the Family Courts to act at an early stage and possibly by low-threshold interventions. The Bill is intended to create specific opportunities for earlier, enhanced intervention with the parents so that they are more easily induced to seek the public assistance required to restore their parental competence.

The Federal Government’s draft legislation provides for the following changes:

- **Simplification of the “Qualifying Barriers for an Offence”, when a Case is Taken to Court**

Pursuant to the applicable legislation, child protection orders by a Family Court assume that the parents, due to their misconduct, i.e. abuse of parental custody, neglect of the child or a non-culpable failure, constitute a danger to the child’s well-being and are not willing or able to avert the risk to the child (section 1666 subs. 1 of the Civil Code, BGB).

The draft legislation states that the prerequisite of a “parental educational failure” will be deleted, as it is often hard to prove. The decisive prerequisites for an offence are and will remain a danger to the child’s well-being as well as the unwillingness or inability of the parents to avert the danger. The amendment is also intended to prevent the risk that parents will no longer co-operate because of their alleged “educational failure”.

- **More Specific Potential Legal Consequences**

The Family Court must take the required and appropriate action to avert the risk (section 1666 subs. 1 of the Civil Code). This open wording provides the Family Courts with a wide range of legal options. The range of potential protective measures was not fully exhausted by the courts in the past. The draft legislation therefore provides for more specific rules by listing examples of potential measures.

The Family Courts and the Youth Offices are thus given an illustration of the whole range of potential measures – even below the threshold of withdrawing parental custody. The court may order that parents have to seek public assistance such as child and youth service interventions (e.g. educational counseling and social training courses) and healthcare services (e.g. precautionary medical checkups or screenings). However, the court may also specifically order the parents to ensure the child’s regular attendance at school.
Discussion of the Dangers for the Child’s Well-being (“Educational Interview”)

The draft legislation intends to introduce a “discussion of dangers to the child’s well-being”. In an early stage of the proceedings, the Family Court is now able to intervene vis-à-vis the parents so that they seek public assistance and co-operate with the Youth Office, even though the proceedings at still in the preliminary stage and measures pursuant to section 1666 of the Civil Code (BGB) have not yet been invoked. An important objective of the discussion is to get all parties concerned to the same table. It is the responsibility of the Court to show the parents the seriousness of the situation – always with the participation of the Youth Office – and to induce them to accept the necessary youth services, or to alert them to the possible consequences of not availing themselves of these services (possibly a withdrawal of their custody). This option already exists in the current legislation, but it is rarely used in practice.

Review Following Waiving of Judicial Measures

In the past, a Family Court, which did not order any specific measures in proceedings for a danger to the child’s well-being, was not obliged to review its decision at a later date. According to the planned amendment, the court is to review after a suitable time period whether its decision is still correct. This approach is meant to guarantee that the court will enact measures again if the child’s situation does not improve according to the court’s expectations, or indeed if it deteriorates.

Faster Proceedings

The draft legislation includes the comprehensive mandatory principle of prioritizing and expediting proceedings in case of a danger to the child’s well-being and of expediting proceedings regarding the child’s residence, access rights or an obligation to hand over the child. The court must schedule a first explanatory hearing within a month. In cases involving a danger to the child’s well-being, the Family Court has to examine any expedited action immediately after proceedings have been initiated.

More Legal Certainty in Cases of “Secure” Accommodation

It may be necessary as an educational means of last resort in individual cases that a minor is deprived of his/her liberty and committed to a child and youth service home or to a psychiatric institution. Such decisions may not be taken by the parents alone – despite their right to determine the child’s habitual residence. Pursuant to section 1631b of the Civil Code, such an action requires the approval of the court. In practice, there are uncertainties regarding the application of section 1631b of the Civil Code, especially as it does not explicitly lay down the prerequisites for such court approval. The draft legislation clearly stipulates that depriving a child of his/her liberty and committing him/her to
secure accommodation must be necessary for the child's own benefit and should especially prevent the child from posing a serious threat to himself/herself or to others, and that the principle of proportionality must always be upheld. Secure accommodation is therefore only permitted as a last resort if the danger to the child cannot be prevented by less incisive measures.

*Kriegsdienstverweigerungsgesetz (KDVG)*
*(Conscientious Objection Act)*

*Act on the Objection to Render Armed Military Service for Reasons of Conscience (Conscientious Objection Act, KDVG) of 9 August 2003*

The Conscientious Objection Act (Kriegsdienstverweigerungsgesetz, KDVG) contains procedural rules in cases of persons refusing to render any armed military service for reasons of conscience, invoking Art. 4 Para. 3 sentence 1 of the Basic Law. Pursuant to Art. 12 a Para. 2 of the Basic Law, recognized conscientious objectors have to serve a period of community service outside the Federal Armed Forces in lieu of military service.

The law governing conscientious objection was reformed and greatly simplified in 2003. All applications – by civilians, conscripts, male and female soldiers, reservists – are decided by the Federal Office for Alternative Civilian Service (Bundesamt für den Zivildienst) in Cologne. The decisive factor is the justification given for the moral decision, which provides the basis for the applicant's conscientious objection.


*Lebenspartnerschaftsgesetz (LpartG)*
*(Partnership for Life Act)*

*Act on Registered Partnerships for Life (Gesetz über die Eingetragene Lebenspartnerschaft – LpartG) of 16 February 2001, as amended by the Act amending the Act on Names in Marriages or Partnerships of 6 February 2005, last amended by Art. 2 subs. 18 of the Act of 19 February 2007*

The Act on Registered Partnerships for Life, or Partnership for Life Act, entered into force on 1 August 2001 and was extensively amended on 1 January 2005. The Partnership for Life Act introduced the autonomous legal concept of domestic partnerships which are neither a marriage nor comparable to a marriage. The Federal Constitutional Court ruled on 17 July 2002 that the Act
on Registered Partnerships for Life is constitutional and does not violate Art. 6 of the Basic Law and its normative principle, which protects marriages and families. This Act gives same-sex couples legal certainty for an envisaged long-term partnership. The provisions of the Partnership for Life Act do not result in full equality of such partnerships and marriages, however.

The Act puts an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians. Homosexual couples are given an opportunity to register their partnership for life with an authority to be determined by the Länder – normally the registrar’s office. This leads to a number of rights and obligations for the partners which did not exist in the past and resulted in discrimination against gay and lesbian couples. This Act, the constitutionality of which has now been confirmed, acknowledges the fact that same-sex living arrangements are regarded as a natural element of our society.

Core provisions of the Partnership for Life Act are:
- the opportunity to determine a common name,
- mutual maintenance obligations and rights,
- a “restricted custody” right for the partner for life, i.e. the partner’s co-determination in everyday matters of a child brought into the partnership by the other partner,
- the statutory right of inheritance of the surviving partner,
- the rights of the surviving partner to enter into a rental agreement for an apartment,
- the right to refuse to testify, the inclusion of the partner for life in health insurance and long-term care insurance policies,
- the right of foreign partners for life to enter the country or to be naturalized,
- provisions on the consequences over separation of the partners for life (such as maintenance rights).

The Act determines that a partnership for life cannot be lawfully established
- with a person who is a minor or married or living in a partnership for life with another individual;
- between individuals who are related in a direct line;
- between full or half siblings;
- when the partners for life agree that they do not wish to establish obligations pursuant to section 2 when they establish their partnership.

The Act also states that there is no right to bring legal action for the establishment of a partnership for life on the basis of a promise to establish such a partnership.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/lpartg/.
Mutterschutzgesetz (MuSchG)
(Maternity Protection Act)

Act for the Protection of Working Mothers (Gesetz zum Schutze der erwerbstätigen Mütter – MuSchG) in the version published on 20 June 2002, amended by Art. 2 subs. 10 of the Act of 5 December 2006

As a matter of principle, the Maternity Protection Act protects the mother against dismissal and in most cases also against a temporary cut in income. It also protects the health of mother and child against hazards at the workplace. It applies to all women in gainful employment. It also applies to part-time employees, domestic employees and home workers, and it applies to women who are in a vocational training situation when the trainee employment is based on a contract of employment. In principle, the Maternity Protection Act also applies to women employed without contributions being paid to the social security system (part-time/low-wage employment).

The Act does not apply to housewives, the self-employed, members of governing bodies and executive directors of legal entities or companies.

The Act lays down the obligations of the employer in view of designing the workplace of pregnant women or nursing mothers; it contains prohibitions for certain types of activity and dismissals, includes provisions on maternity leave and benefits for pregnant women and mothers.

As of 20 June 2002, employed mothers are likewise entitled to a maternity protection period of no less than 14 weeks if the child is born before the expected date of delivery. The entitlement covers all mothers who are in the protected employment period and have not yet returned to their workplace or have not started their parental leave when the Act enters into force.

The maternity protection period starts six weeks before the expected date of delivery and normally ends eight weeks after delivery, or twelve weeks after delivery in case of medically premature births and multiple births. In case of a medically premature birth, i.e. normally in case of a birthweight of less than 2,500 grams, the maternity protection period after delivery is extended by the additional days which could not be taken before delivery.

The amendment of the Act equates early deliveries to medically premature births insofar as the protection period is for no less than 14 weeks in both cases. This corresponds to definite transposition of the EU Maternity Protection Directive.

The amended Maternity Protection Act also remedies previous legal uncertainties with respect to annual leave for pregnant women and mothers. In the calculation of annual leave, the maternity protection periods and other prohibited activities pursuant to the maternity protection laws are included as periods of employment.
The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/muschg/.

**Opferentschädigungsgesetz (OEG)**
(Victim Compensation Act)

*Act on Compensation for Victims of Violence (Gesetz über die Entschädigung für Opfer von Gewalttaten – OEG) in the version published on 7 January 1985, last amended by Art. 2 of the Act of 19 June 2006*

The Victim Compensation Act (Opferentschädigungsgesetz) constitutes a major judicial and social policy achievement. As one of the first states in the world, the Federal Republic of Germany has adopted legislation introducing a statutory compensation claim for victims, and the scope of this compensation is unparalleled in comparison to the rules of other nations.

The compensation claim includes the protection of the family of a victim of violence because the relatives or surviving dependants of victims of violence were often unable to overcome the consequences of violence by themselves. Pursuant to the Act, medical treatment and all services for the victim’s medical rehabilitation and participation on the labour market are paid for by the state; this also includes non-medical social education/remedial education services for children.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/oeg/.

**Prostitutionsgesetz (ProstG)**
(Prostitution Act)

*Act regulating the legal situation of prostitutes (Prostitution Act – ProstG) of 20 December 2001*

The Prostitution Act, which entered into force on 1 January 2002, improves the legal and social situation of prostitutes.

The objective of the Prostitution Act is to counteract the former legal disadvantages of prostitutes and to facilitate their social security. At the same time, and the criminal offence of causing/encouraging prostitution or procuration was revoked to the extent that brothel operators do not commit a criminal offence simply by wanting to create more favourable or safer working conditions for prostitutes.

The Prostitution Act clearly states that prostitutes establish their claim to the agreed compensation by providing the agreed sexual service. On the basis
of the Prostitution Act, prostitutes may also perform their activity in a situation of gainful employment which is subject to social security contributions. The employer’s the right to give instructions is restricted, however; prostitutes may refuse to serve certain customers or to perform certain sexual practices, and they may entirely renounce prostitution at any time.

The exploitation of prostitutes, trafficking and the prostitution of minors continue to be punishable offences.

The Federal Government's report on the impact of the Prostitution Act, which was presented on 24 January 2007, examines to what extent the objectives of the Act entering into force in 2002 have so far been realised in practice, and presents the Federal Government’s perspective on the resulting need for action.

The text of the Act is available at: [http://bundesrecht.juris.de/prostg/](http://bundesrecht.juris.de/prostg/).

Schwangeren- und Familienhilfeänderungsgesetz (SFHÄndG)
(Pregnancy and Family Assistance Amendment Act)

Pregnancy and Family Assistance Amendment Act (SFHÄndG) of 21 August 1995


The termination of a pregnancy in the first twelve weeks after conception is not a criminal offence if the woman demands such a termination and provides evidence of a counselling session in an accredited pregnancy counselling agency. The termination of a pregnancy is not illegal if it is supported by medical or criminological indications.

As a matter of principle, the cost of a non-punishable termination must be borne by the woman. Upon application, the Länder will pay the cost incurred up to a certain income threshold. The cost for a lawful termination will be compensated under the statutory health insurance scheme.

The text of the Act is available at: [http://www.bmfsfj.de/Kategorien/gesetze,did=3582.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/Kategorien/gesetze,did=3582.html).
Schwangerschaftskonfliktgesetz (SchKG)  
(Pregnancy Conflicts Act)


The Pregnancy Conflicts Act – SchKG – regulates the information as well as the content and the process of pregnancy conflict counselling. The Act states that the Federal Centre for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung), which is responsible for health awareness and health education, will prepare specific concepts for the sex education of various age groups or target groups in consultation with the Länder and in co-operation with representatives of family counselling centres operated by various providers in the interest of preventive health care, as well as of avoiding and resolving pregnancy conflicts.

Educational material will be provided free of charge to individuals upon request and as teaching material to schools and vocational training centres, counselling centres as well as all institutions for youth work and education.

Every woman and every man has the right to receive free information and counselling from a specialised counselling centre on issues of sex education, contraception and family planning as well as all issues which are indirectly or directly related to pregnancy. The counselling entitlement includes information on
- sex education, contraception and family planning,
- existing assistance and benefits for children and families including their special labour-related rights,
- preventive checkups during pregnancy and the cost of delivery,
- social and economic assistance to pregnant mothers and especially financial benefits, as well as assistance in finding or retaining accommodation, employment or a trainee position,
- assistance opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families which are available before and after the birth of a child, whose physical mental or psychological health has been impaired,
- methods for terminating a pregnancy; the physical and mental consequences of such a termination and the associated risks,
- opportunities for resolving psychosocial conflicts in connection with a pregnancy,
- legal and psychological aspects in connection with an adoption.

The required counselling pursuant to section 219 of the Criminal Code does not anticipate a specific result. It is to be based on the woman’s responsibility. The counselling is to provide encouragement and create understanding, but not to
instruct or indoctrinate the woman. Pregnancy conflict counselling is intended to protect unborn life.

The pregnant woman is to also receive support in asserting her claims and finding accommodation, identifying a care facility for the child and continuing her own training or education.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/beratungsg/

**Legal Provisions on Pregnancy Terminations Pursuant to Section 218 of the Criminal Code**

According to the counselling arrangements applicable in Germany, termination of pregnancy is unlawful as a matter of principle, but will not be punishable under certain conditions (section 218a subs. 1 and section 219 of the Criminal Code – StGB):

- Termination of pregnancy is not punishable by law if the so-called counselling process is followed: for such a termination, the pregnant woman demanding such a procedure has to present a certificate to the surgeon to document that a counselling interview has taken place with an approved pregnancy conflict counselling agency no less than three days prior to the surgical procedure.
- Furthermore, termination of the pregnancy must be performed within twelve weeks after conception by a surgeon who was not involved in the counselling process.
- The unlawfulness of termination of pregnancy is excluded in case of medical indications (section 218 a subs. 2 of the Criminal Code) in order to prevent a threat to the life or a risk of serious harm to the physical or mental condition of the pregnant woman and when, in case of criminological indications, the pregnancy is the result of a sexual offence (sections 176 to 179 of the Criminal Code).

As regards the cost of termination of pregnancy, a distinction must be made between lawful termination of pregnancy resulting from a medical/criminological indication or termination subsequent to the counselling process. The cost of medically indicated terminations of pregnancy is borne by the statutory health insurance; criminologically indicated pregnancy terminations are paid from tax revenues.
Gesetz zur Hilfe für Frauen bei Schwangerschaftsabbrüchen in besonderen Fällen
(Act on Assistance for Women in Special Pregnancy Termination Cases)

Act on Assistance for Women in Special Pregnancy Termination Cases of 21 August 1995, last amended by Art. 98 of the Ordinance of 31 October 2006

Pursuant to this Act, a woman is entitled to benefits if it would be unacceptable to demand that she provides the funds for her own termination of pregnancy and when her habitual domicile or place of residence is in the territory covered by the Act. Section 10a subs. 3 sentence 4 of the Asylum Seekers’ Benefits Act (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz) applies mutatis mutandis to women who are entitled to benefits pursuant to the Asylum Seekers’ Benefits Act.

The 12th Ordinance for the Reform of Contributions pursuant to section 7 subs. 1 of the Act on Assistance for Women in Special Pregnancy Termination Cases of 24 July 2007 contains provisions on the amount of cost to be paid from a person’s disposable income in cases in which a woman cannot be expected to provide the funding for termination of pregnancy as defined in the Act.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/schwhg/.

Sozialgesetzbuch (SGB)
(Social Code)

The Social Code (SGB) is the formal codification of social legislation. It contains provisions on the major areas which are currently defined as pertaining to social legislation; not included in the Social Code (SGB) are especially those legal matters which fall in the realm of social legislation whose scope is limited in terms of temporal or personal application.

The legislation contained in the Social Code is intended to shape social security benefits, including social and educational assistance for the realisation of social justice and social security. It is to contribute to
- ensuring a dignified human existence,
- creating equal preconditions for the free development of an individual’s personality, and especially the personality of young people,
- protecting and promoting the family,
- enabling an individual to earn a living through a freely chosen occupation/activity,
- preventing or compensating for special hardships in life, also by providing help for self-help.
The legislation contained in the Social Code is also intended as a contribution so that the social services and facilities which are required to fulfil the duties contained in the Social Code are made available in a timely and sufficient manner.

In 1969, the legislature started with the concept of consolidating numerous individual acts into a consistent body of legislation, and this consolidation has advanced considerably in the meantime. **At present, the Social Code (SGB) is divided into 12 Books, with each Book being separately numbered with consecutive paragraphs so that – in terms of legal technique – each of them is considered as an independent Act of Parliament.**

**Sozialgesetzbuch Zweites Buch (SGB II)**
(Social Code, Book II)


The purpose and the objective of the new basic cost-of-living benefits for jobseekers is to strengthen employable assistance seekers’ own responsibility and to make a contribution so that they can earn a living from their own funds and efforts and not have to resort to basic cost-of-living benefits. They are to be supported in starting or continuing their gainful employment. Against the backdrop of these objectives, the Act stipulates that employable assistance seekers below 25 years of age are to be placed in employment or training, or that they are to be offered an opportunity to gain work experience. Young people are to be introduced primarily into a training situation. For this purpose, additional integration benefits (e.g. opportunities to gain work experience, other benefits – such as debt counselling, addict counselling, psychosocial care or child care – and initiation benefits) in addition to active employment promotion benefits pursuant to the Social Code – Book III – Promotion of Employment (SGB III) are available to the personal case managers employed with the providers of basic cost-of-living benefits for jobseekers.

Equal rights for men and women are to be applied as a consistent principle. Basic social security benefits are to especially be orientated to the principle that
- the need for assistance is to be avoided or abolished through gainful employment, the duration of the need for assistance shortened or the amount of assistance required reduced,
- the employability of the individual in need of assistance is to be retained, improved or restored,
- gender-specific disadvantages of employable individuals in need are to be counteracted,
- family-specific living conditions of employable individuals in need who raise children or who provide care to family members in need of care, are to be taken into account,
- specific disadvantages of individuals with disabilities are to be overcome.

The basic cost-of-living benefits or jobseekers include benefits which are intended to end or reduce their need for assistance, especially through their integration into the labour market and by providing cost-of-living assistance.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/sgb_2/.

Sozialgesetzbuch Drittes Buch (SGB III)
(Social Code, Book III)

Social Code, Book III - Promotion of Employment - (Drittes Buch Sozialgesetzbuch - Arbeitsförderung) - (Art. 1 of the Act of 24 March 1997), last amended by Art. 6 Para. 10 of the Act of 19 August 2007

The Social Code – Book III (SGB III) - regulates the promotion of employment. It is the successor of the Promotion of Employment Act (Arbeitsförderungsgesetz) and comprises all services and measures for the promotion of employment and regulations on unemployment insurance. It is thus the basis for the work of the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit) and the employment agencies (Agenturen für Arbeit).

The purpose of the services for the promotion of employment is to contribute to a high level of employment and a constant improvement of the employment structure. The main goal of the promotion of employment is to prevent unemployment, or, if this has already occurred, to end it as soon as possible. This objective is realised by job counselling and recruitment services, as well as by services for the active promotion of employment. They take priority over passive services (unemployment benefits).

For young people starting out in their careers, the employment agencies provide comprehensive services with their special U25 teams. This includes free counselling and recruitment offers and services to promote people taking up vocational training (e.g. participation in a job-preparatory education measure, in aids accompanying training or in a vocational training measures in an out-of-company institution). Furthermore, they benefit from the remaining services for employees, employers and supporters (e.g. services for the support of counselling and job recruitment, mobility assistance). In order to enable a person
to take a company or out-of-company training course in a recognised training profession, the Employment Agency pays apprentices a Vocational Training Subsidy (Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe) if they meet certain prerequisites.

The Federal Government and the Federal Employment Agency can make agreements on the employment policy goals. The agreements may include approvals or consents as required by the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch).

The employment agencies particularly provide services for employers and employees by:

- regularly informing employers about training and labour market developments, people in search of an apprenticeship, available specialists and vocational training measures, as well as offering labour market counselling tailored to the company and job recruitment services
- counselling employees on preparing to choose a career and the development of their professional options, making them recruitment offers at the start of their training or career in accordance with their skills, as well as providing other employment promotion services.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/sgb_3/.

Viertes Gesetz zur Änderung des SGB III – Verbesserung der Qualifizierung und Beschäftigungschancen von jüngeren Menschen

(Fourth Act on the Amendment of the Social Code Book III – Improvement of the Qualification and Employment Opportunities of Young People)

The Fourth Act on the Amendment of Social Code Book III – Improvement of the Qualification and Employment Opportunities of Young People – came into force on 1 October 2007, and aims to give new opportunities for the labour market to the young unemployed and those in search of an apprenticeship, as well as the long-term unemployed with problems finding a job. In future, there will be two new employment subsidies for the improvement of the qualification and employment opportunities of young people and people with special problems finding a job:

- Integration and Qualification Subsidy for Young People under the Age of 25

The Integration Subsidy is targeted at younger employees with a vocational qualification; the Qualification Subsidy, on the other hand, is targeted at those without a vocational qualification. Both services – the Integration and the Qualification subsidy – are defined in the Act on the Promotion of Employment (Social Code Book III), as well as in the right to Basic Cost-of-Living Benefits for Jobseekers (Social Code Book II), and are valid until 31 December 2010.
Furthermore, the promise from the Training Pact (Ausbildungspakt): to promote 40,000 placements in the Initial Qualification of Young People (Einstiegsqualifizierung Jugendlicher, EQJ) for the coming three years is being redeemed. Due to its success, the Initial Qualification of Young People is being adopted as an employer service in the employment promotion legislation. The support prerequisites that were previously regulated in the government’s EQJ programme are mainly of the same content in the legal regulations. Furthermore, in accordance with the promises of the Training Pact, the opportunity for social education supervision and organisational support of company vocational training and vocational training preparation is being introduced.

- **Subsidy for the Improvement of the Employment Opportunities of People with Placement Problems (JobPerspektive)**

This employment subsidy offers people a new perspective for work who have no chance of being recruited on the general labour market in the foreseeable future: A special employer subsidy is being introduced for the long-term unemployed with special recruitment problems who are in need of help, are capable of working and are over the age of 18. The prerequisite for the subsidy is generally that at least six months have passed in which the person in need of help has actively, but unsuccessfully, attempted to find recruitment on the labour market and that integration in the general labour market is not expected to take place within the next 24 months. This applied to around 100,000 people at the end of 2007.

For a transitional period up to 31 March 2008, the employment subsidy is being applied in a modified form due to a financial aid examination on the EU level. The impacts of the subsidy instrument on the labour market and the federal budget are being examined for the years 2008 to 2010, and the German Bundestag will receive a report on this by 31 December 2011.

The text of the Act is available at: [http://bundesrecht.juris.de/sgb_3/](http://bundesrecht.juris.de/sgb_3/).

**Sozialgesetzbuch Fünftes Buch (SGB V)**

**Social Code, Book V – Statutory Health Insurance**


As a community based on the principle of mutual solidarity, the mission of statutory health insurance is to maintain, restore or improve the health of the insured parties. The latter share responsibility for their own health; they are to contribute to their own health by leading a healthy lifestyle and through health
awareness, early participation in preventive health care programmes and active participation in their own treatment and rehabilitation so that the onset of disease and disability is avoided or their effects are overcome. The health insurance companies are to help insured parties with information, counselling and benefits and to work towards achieving healthy living conditions.

Health insurance companies provide services/benefits to the insured while complying with the requirement of carefully managing their funds (section 12) and insofar as such services/benefits are not part of the insured party’s sphere of personal responsibility. Treatment methods, medication and medicinal remedies of special therapeutic disciplines are not excluded. The quality and efficacy of services/benefits are to conform to the medical state of the art and to take into account the progress made by medical science.

The insured parties receive benefits in kind as well as services. Upon request, benefits/services may be provided as part of a personal budget which is not limited to a single provider. The insurance companies conclude agreements with the service providers on the provision of services and benefits in kind.

The diversity of service providers are to be considered in their selection. Due consideration is to be given to the religious needs of the insured parties.

Health insurers, service providers and the insured parties are to endeavour to ensure that services/benefits are provided with efficacy and economy and that they are claimed to the necessary extent only.

Sozialgesetzbuch Achtes Buch (SGB VIII) – Kinder- und Jugendhilfe
(Social Code, Book VIII – Child and Youth Services)

As part of the Act for the Reorganisation of the Act on Child and Youth Services, (Gesetz zur Neuordnung des Kinder- und Jugendhilferechts, KJHG) - after decades of reform discussions, a new legal basis was established in 1990 for child and youth welfare in the Federal Republic of Germany: Book VIII of the Social Code – Child and Youth Services (SGB VIII). The new Book replaced the Youth Welfare Act (Jugendwohlfahrtsgesetz), the basis of which is from the year 1922, and came into force on 1 January 1991, and even earlier in the newly formed German Länder – on 3 October 1990. At the same time, the material was incorporated in the Social Code.

For the realisation of the Act in accordance with para. 1 SGB VIII, youth services should in particular.
- Promote young people in their individual and social development, and contribute to avoiding or reducing disadvantages
- Counsel and support parents and other guardians in bringing up their children
- Protect children and young people from danger in order to preserve their well-being
- Contribute to establishing positive living conditions for young people and their families, as well as maintaining or establishing a child- and family-friendly environment

The Act regulates a broad spectrum of tasks that are split into services and other tasks. In addition to general offers for the support of young people (youth work), the services include social education assistance for the promotion of school and vocational training (youth social work), general offers for the promotion of bringing up children in a family (parent education, parent training), the promotion of children in day care institutions and in day care, individual parental assistance for bringing up their children, treating children and young people in an out-patient, partly in-patient and in-patient form to satisfy a specific educational need, as well as individual educational aids for young people who have come of age.

Because it is related to these tasks, the task of integration assistance for psychologically disabled children and young people is also part of these tasks, although social welfare continues to be responsible for physically and mentally disabled children and young people. In addition, there are other tasks, such as the involvement of the youth office in court proceedings (guardianship court, family court, juvenile court), the role as a lay person acting in support of a defendant, official guardian or official carer, as well as the protection of children and youths in foster care and institutions.

The tasks are largely performed by the local supporters (districts, towns that are administered as districts in their own right). These have to set up a youth office. In addition, the law defines national supporters. They are defined by the state and, in addition to the so-called Supervision of Homes (HeimAufsicht), they are above all charged with the task of specialist counselling of youth offices.

The tasks of the youth services are financed from community funding (tax receipts of the communities, allocations by the Federal Länder). Parents and young people contribute to the costs for the support of day care institutions and day care, as well as the costs for partly in-patient and in-patient educational assistance. Out-patient educational assistance is non-contributory.

In the more than 17 years since it was passed, the Act has been amended several times. The most important amendments include:
- The introduction of the legal entitlement to a nursery place for every child that has turned three (1996)
- The expansion of the counselling provided for the maintenance of parenthood after separation or divorce and for dealing with behavioural conflicts (1998)
- The reassignment of the financing of supporters of partly in-patient and in-patient services (1999)

The last two amendments were passed by the Day Care Expansion Act (Tagesbetreuungsausbaugesetz, TAG) and the Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Services (Kinder- und Jugendhilfeweiterentwicklungsgesetz, KICK).

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/sgb_8/.

**Tagesbetreuungsausbaugesetz (TAG)**

*(Day Care Expansion Act)*

*Act on the Quality-Oriented and Needs-Oriented Expansion of Day Care for Children (Gesetz zum qualitätsorientierten und bedarfsgerechten Ausbau der Tagesbetreuung für Kinder – Tagesbetreuungsausbaugesetz – TAG) of 27 December 2004*

The Act on the Expansion of Day Care for Children under the Age of Three (Gesetz zum Ausbau der Tagesbetreuung für Kinder unter drei Jahren – Tagesbetreuungsausbaugesetz, TAG) came into force on 1 January 2005. The basis of the Act, with which particularly sections 22–24 of the Social Code Book III (SGB VIII) were amended, is the expansion of day care for small children under the age of three. TAG defines the duty to provide a needs-oriented offer of day care for this age group with specific needs criteria. The Act aims to create a total of 230,000 additional places in day care institutions and in day care by the year 2010, increase the quality of support and enable children to be provided with early support. In addition, day care is being expanded and enhanced by qualification measures.

The municipalities are responsible for the implementation of these provisions. They are obliged to present a binding expansion plan and submit an annual report on its progress. In addition, their financial burden is relieved by EUR 1.5 billion obtained from savings from the merger of unemployment benefits and social welfare.

A further aspect of the Act is to enhance day care by male and female child-minders as an equal alternative to the day care institutions. TAG stipulates that child-minders should be given better training in future and be checked for their suitability. In turn, they are to be provided with better social security.
The continuation of the TAG can be found in the Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Services (Gesetz zur Weiterentwicklung der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, KICK).

The text of the Act is available at: http://217.160.60.235/BGBL/bgbl1f/bgbl104s3852.pdf.

Kinder- und Jugendhilfeweiterentwicklungsgesetz (KICK)  
(Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Services)

Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Services (Kinder- und Jugendhilfeweiterentwicklungsgesetz – KICK) of 13 September 2005

The Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Services (Gesetz zur Weiterentwicklung der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – KICK) came into force on 1 October 2005. The Act includes regulations that accompany the Act on the Expansion of Child Care (Gesetz zum Ausbau der Kinderbetreuung, TAG), which came into force on 1 January 2005.

The primary task of KICK is to improve the protection of children and young people from danger in order to preserve their well-being. As a result, the Youth Office’s mandate of protection in the event of endangering a child’s well-being was structured and defined; the supporters of institutions and services were involved in the fulfilment of the protection assignment (section 8a). Furthermore, regulations included the following: the responsibility of the Youth Office to set the direction in ensuring the provision of services and limiting the self-provision of services (section 36 a), the provision of assistance abroad was made more dependent on stricter requirements (sections 27, 35 a and 78 b) and the contribution of parents and young people to the costs of services was reorganised (sections 90 et seqq.).

The Authorisation Requirement for Day Care Workers (Erlaubnispflicht für Tagespflegepersonen) was redefined as an accompanying measure to the TAG. Day Care Authorisation applies in future to up to five children and does not have to be reapplied for with every individual child, as was previously the case. Occasional care, assistance from neighbours and relatives does not require authorisation.

The text of the Act is available at: http://www.bgblportal.de/BGBL/bgbl1f/bgbl105s2729.pdf.
Sozialgesetzbuch Neuntes Buch (SGB IX) – Rehabilitation und Teilhabe behinderter Menschen
(Social Code, Book IX – Rehabilitation and Participation of Persons with Disabilities)

Disabled people or people at risk of becoming disabled are provided with services in accordance with this Code and the service provision legislation that applies to rehabilitation providers in order to promote their ability to live their lives in a self-determined manner and enjoy equal participation in the life of society, and to avoid or combat disadvantages. In addition, the special needs of women and children who are (at risk of becoming) disabled are taken into account.

The services for societal participation include the necessary social services to achieve the following irrespective of the cause:
- To prevent, remedy or reduce the disability, stop it from worsening or alleviate its consequences
- To avoid, overcome or reduce limitations in ability to work or the need for care, or to prevent a worsening of these conditions, as well as to avoid premature drawing of other social benefits or to reduce current social benefits
- To lastingly secure participation in working life in accordance with the person’s tendencies and abilities, or
- To provide holistic support for personal development and participation in life in society, as well as enabling or contributing towards a life that is as independent and self-determined as possible

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/sgb_9/.

Sozialgesetzbuch Zwölftes Buch (SGB XII) – Sozialhilfe
(Social Code, Book XII – Social Welfare)

It is the task of social welfare to enable people who are entitled to services to lead a life of human dignity. The service should as far as possible enable them
to live independently of it, and the people entitled to services should do their utmost to achieve this goal. The people entitled to services and the supporters of the social welfare should work together within the scope of their rights and duties to achieve these goals.

Social welfare is not granted to those who – above all through use of their capacity for work, their income and their assets – are able to help themselves or those who receive the required benefit from others, particularly from relatives or agencies funding other social benefits. Duties incumbent on others, particularly on those obliged to pay maintenance or agencies funding other social benefits, are not affected by this. Benefits provided by others which have a legal foundation may not be denied because appropriate benefits should be provided according to the social welfare legislation.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/sgb_12/.

**Sozialgerichtsgesetz (SGG)**
*(Social Welfare Courts Act)*

*Social Welfare Courts Act in the version published on 23 September 1975, last amended by Art. 9 of the Act of 20 April 2007*

The jurisdiction in social welfare cases is ensured by special Administrative Courts, which are independent and separate from administrative authorities. It may also be ensured by dedicated panels of judges sitting in Administrative Courts or Higher Administrative Courts. The courts established in the Länder having the jurisdiction for social welfare matters are the Social Courts (Sozialgerichte) and the Land Social Courts; and the Federal Social Court on the federal level.

All courts, administrative authorities and bodies of statutory insurance companies are obliged by law to provide legal and official support to the Social Courts.

The Social Courts set up chambers for matters pertaining to social security (insurance), employment promotion including the other responsibilities of the Federal Labour Agency, as well as matters pertaining to social welfare benefits and the Asylum Seekers’ Benefits Act (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz), the legislation on statutory social compensation (legislation on statutory compensation for health damages) and the legislation on persons with severe disabilities.
Criminal Law Protection for Stalking Victims (Stalking Act)

Pursuant to section 238 of the German Criminal Code, stalking has been a criminal offence since February 2007. A person pursuing another individual, thereby seriously restricting the manner in which he/she lives, is liable to a prison sentence of up to ten years.

Stalking includes seeking the physical proximity of the victim and pursuing the victim by means of communication such as letters, phone calls, e-mails or text messages. Furthermore, stalking is defined as an abuse of the victim’s name including orders for goods and services being placed in the victim’s name. Threats are likewise punishable by law.

The sentence is higher if the health of the victim, his/her relatives or people close to the victim are negatively affected, if they are placed in mortal danger or if their death is caused by stalking.

Persons acting in line with the existing press legislation do not risk a stalking prosecution. The new section 238 of the German Criminal Code (StGB) does not affect the constitutionally protected freedom of the press to cover news and procure information by regarding such activities as a criminal offence.

The new criminal offence of “stalking” as defined by section 238 of the Criminal Code (StGB) reads as follows:

§ 238 Stalking
(1) An individual pursuing another individual without authorisation by persistently
1. Seeking that individual’s physical proximity
2. Trying to establish contact to that individual by using means of telecommunication or other means of communication or by using a third party as intermediary,
3. Placing orders for goods and services by abusively using the individual’s personal data or causing third parties to establish contact with said individual,
4. Threatening the individual or someone close to said individual by causing an injury to the person’s life, physical integrity, health or freedom, or
5. Performing similar acts and causing severe restrictions to the manner in which the individual she lives, shall be sentenced to imprisonment of up to three years or to a fine.

(2) A prison sentence between three months and five years shall be handed down if the perpetrator’s acts result in mortal danger or severe injury to the health of the victim, relatives of the victim or a person close to the victim.
(3) If the acts performed by the perpetrator result in the death of the victim, relatives of the victim or a person close to the victim, this offence shall be punishable by a prison sentence of one to ten years.

(4) In the cases pursuant to subs. 1, the offence shall be prosecuted only upon application, unless the prosecuting authority is of the opinion that its ex-officio intervention is imperative due to the special public interest in the prosecution of the case.

As recidivism is included as a custody reason in Section 112a of the Code of Criminal Procedure (StPO), it will be possible in future to issue a warrant for the arrest of dangerous stalkers. In extreme circumstances, it will therefore be possible to remand dangerous perpetrators in custody to prevent serious crimes against the victim’s life and health.

**Legal Protection against Violent Video Games**

The term “violent video games” is expert jargon and is used accordingly in the current discussion. A legal definition of the term “violent video game” is not provided in the German Criminal Code (StGB). Furthermore, the term “violent video game” is used in neither the Youth Protection Act (Jugendschutzgesetz) nor the State Treaty on Youth Media Protection (Jugendmedienschutz-Staatsvertrag).

Section 131 of the German Criminal Code (StGB) provides protection against violent video games. Following an amendment of the provision in 2004, it is now possible to take effective action against the dissemination of first-person-shooter games and other violent video games. The prerequisite is that the games include a glorifying representation of cruel acts of violence. The legal definition of documents also includes data storage devices.

Section 131 states the following:

(1) Individuals who (1) disseminate (2) publicly exhibit, post, demonstrate or otherwise provide access to documents (section 11 subs. 3) which depict cruel or otherwise inhuman acts of violence against humans or humanlike creatures in a way that expresses a glorification or playing down of such acts of violence or depicts the cruelty or inhumanity of such acts in a manner violating human dignity; (3) offer, hand over or provide access to such documents to a person under the age of 18 or (4) produce, purchase, supply, store, offer, announce, advertise, undertake to import or export such documents with the aim of using
or enabling the use of the obtained items defined under nos. 1 to 3, shall be liable to a prison sentence of up to one year or a fine.

(2) Individuals disseminating a presentation of the content described in subs. 1 in broadcasts, media services or teleservices shall also be punishable by law.

(3) Subs. 1 to 3 shall not apply if such acts are intended to cover news about current or past events.

(4) Subs. 1 no. 3 shall not apply if the act is performed by the individual having custody for the person in question; this shall not apply if said custodian grossly violates his/her educational obligations by offering, handing over, or providing access to such documents.

**Gesetz zur Änderung telekommunikationsrechtlicher Vorschriften (TelekRÄndG)**

(Act on the Amendment of Provisions of the Telecommunications Act)

The Act on the Amendment of Provisions of the Telecommunications Act, most of which came into force on 24 February 2007, includes various regulations on the improvement of youth welfare in the telecommunications sector. All in all, transparency is improved, which includes the introduction of a so-called handshake process: in future, before the conclusion of subscription contracts, the providers of abbreviated dialling services must notify the consumers of the contract conditions (price, etc.) in a text message. Not until the consumers have confirmed this does the contract come into force. This is an amendment that particularly benefits young consumers, as they are now better protected when ordering ringtones, some of which are part of a subscription.

The consumer can also demand the sending of a notification if the payment entitlements from subscription contracts for abbreviated dialling services exceed EUR 20 in the respective month. Furthermore, the obligation of price notification has been expanded. Previously, this was only valid for 0190 or 0900 telephone numbers and is now also obligatory for 0137 telephone numbers (so-called televote telephone numbers) and the connection through an information service. The option that has now been introduced – to block reverse-charge calls (entry in a blocked list) – particularly protects the young consumers from having to pay for incoming calls.

The text of the Act is available at: www.bghlportal.de/BGBl/bgbl1f/bgbl107s0106.pdf.
Waffengesetz (WaffG)
(Weapons Act)


The new Weapons Act came into force on 1 April 2003. This Act regulates the handling of weapons or ammunition, whilst taking into account the interests of public safety and order. The Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium des Innern) is responsible for controlling the provisions of the Weapons Act; the Federal Länder are mainly responsible for its execution.

The key elements of the Act are:
1. Raising the age of consent for the acquisition and ownership of firearms. For sports rifles, the age is generally raised from 18 to 21. Exceptions are made for those firearms that are particularly authorised for Olympic disciplines. For hunters, the age of consent is raised from 16 to 18.
2. Medical-Psychological examination before the granting of weapons licences for the acquisition and ownership of firearms. Before acquisition of their first firearm that requires a licence, people under the age of 25 must present a report from a professional psychologist or doctor on their suitability of character for owning a weapon. This excludes hunters. A further exclusion is made for marksmen, who may already acquire sports rifles from the age of 18 (cf. No. 1).
3. Supervision in the shooting training of marksmen/women who are minors. For child and youth work, qualified shooting supervision must be provided for the age group of children between the ages of 12 and 14 (these may only shoot with compressed air or spring-activated weapons), as well as young persons between the ages of 14 and 16 if they are shooting with sharpshooter weapons.
4. Official approval of shooting sports regulations. In the interests of public safety, the newly introduced official approval of shooting sports regulations aims to ensure the monitoring of whether a discipline and its specific content and procedures, including the weapons required for this, constitute shooting sports. This thus ensures that there is a precisely regulated responsibility of shooting sports associations for their clubs.
5. Definition of sports shooting to distinguish sports shooting from fight shooting. This prevents skills being trained under the guise of sport that have nothing to do with shooting sports.
6. Banning of so-called pump guns. This ban concerns those pump guns that are considered to be classic “underworld” weapons. Such weapons are particularly dangerous due to the devastating effect that they have at close range. Only pump guns with standard shafts that are used by sports marksmen for shooting clay pigeons are generally exempt from this rule.
7. Notification duty for weapons dealers when handing over firearms. In addition to their duty to enter new owners in the weapons ownership file and their duty to keep a weapon book, weapons dealers are also obliged to notify the weapons authorities within two weeks of the acquisition.

8. Supervisory possibilities of the sports shooting associations for the sports shooting clubs that are their members. With regard to improved indirect state supervisory and intervention possibilities in the thousands of shooting sports clubs, the responsibility of the shooting sports associations for their clubs is precisely regulated (cf. also No. 4).

9. Minimum age for shooting by children. The minimum age is 12. In individual cases, an exception of the minimum age may be permitted for the sake of the promotion of competitive sport.

10. Establishment of a possibility to inform the weapons authorities from the Register of Conduct (Erziehungsregister). To check the personal suitability, information from the Register of Conduct (Erziehungsregister), which is part of the Federal Central Register (Bundeszentralregister), has been introduced. The use of these data aims to prevent people from using weapons who have demonstrated by their conduct and the assessment of a judge that they do not possess the degree of maturity required for handling weapons.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/waffg_2002/.

**Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz (WissZeitVG)**

(Act on the Fixed-Term Employment of Scientists)

*Act on the Amendment of Labour Law Provisions for the Sciences (Act on the Fixed-Term Employment of Scientists – WissZeitVG) of 12 April 2007*

The Act on the Amendment of Labour Law Provisions for the Sciences simplifies the fixed-term employment of scientists in projects with third-party funding even after the completion of the scientists’ qualification phase. A career in science means that scientists develop their profile in various research groups. Universities and extra-mural research institutions increasingly fund their research projects with third party funding and rely on the fixed-term employment of their staff. In the past, there was no specific justification for this fixed-term employment which would also provide the necessary legal certainty.

The existing provisions for fixed-term employment during the qualification phase, the so-called 12-year rule or 15-year rule for the medical sciences, have proven to be useful in practice. Consequently, they were transferred from the Framework Act on Higher Education (Hochschulrahmengesetz) into this new
Act. A family-policy component was added to the provisions: When the scientist in question cares for children, the admissible length of fixed-term employment during the qualification phase is extended by two years for each child. With this provision, the legislature has taken into account the high burden on scientists with children. Furthermore, these new rules are intended to encourage scientists to set up a family at a young age. The new provisions entered into force on 18 April 2007.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/WissZeitVG_2007

Zivildienstgesetz (ZDG)
(Alternative Civilian Service Act)


The Act on the Alternative Civilian Service of Conscientious Objectors (Zivildienstgesetz, ZDG) of 17 May 2005, last amended on 31 October 2006, stipulates that recognised conscientious objectors in the alternative civilian service perform tasks – mainly in the social sector – that are for the general good. Furthermore, based on the Act of 1973, the Federal Office for the Alternative Civilian Service (Bundesamt für den Zivildienst) has been established as a supreme federal office within the competence of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend). Furthermore, since 1970, a federal commissioner has been appointed by nomination of the Federal Government for the alternative civilian service.

An advisory board for the alternative civilian service advises the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend). It is composed of representatives of conscientious objectors and organisations for those performing their alternative civilian service (three of these must be performers of alternative civilian service), representatives and associations of recognised employers, representatives of the two big churches in Germany, the trade unions, the employer associations, as well as the Federal Länder and the communal umbrella associations.

Suitability for alternative civilian service is defined by suitability for military service. Those who are capable of rendering military service are regarded as capable of rendering alternative civilian service, those who are temporarily incapable of rendering military service as temporarily incapable of rendering
alternative civilian service, and those who are not capable of rendering military service as not capable of rendering alternative civilian service. The alternative civilian service relationship commences at the time that is defined in the conscription notification as the beginning of service of the person obliged to perform the service.

Recognised conscientious objectors do not have to perform alternative civilian service
- If they undertake to work for civil defence or the emergency services for a period of six years
- If they undertake to work for a two-year development service
- If they perform another service abroad for at least 11 months
- If they undertake to perform a voluntary service in accordance with the Law on the Promotion of the Voluntary Social Service Year (Gesetz zur Förderung eines freiwilligen sozialen Jahres) or the Law on the Promotion of the Voluntary Ecological Service Year (Gesetz zur Förderung eines freiwilligen ökologischen Jahres)
- If they work for the police enforcement service

Up until the age of 30, recognised conscientious objectors are not called up for alternative civilian service if they have contractually agreed to render at least two-years' development service for one of the agencies funding the development service within the framework of the requirements of this supporter who is recognised in accordance with section 2 of the Act on Development Workers Act (Entwicklungshelfer-Gesetz), appropriately take further education courses for their later job as a development aid worker and this is confirmed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung).

Recognised conscientious objectors are not called up for alternative civilian service if they have contractually agreed to render service abroad for a recognised funding agency before their 23rd birthday that promotes the peaceful cohabitation of peoples and that lasts at least two months longer than the alternative civilian service that they would have otherwise had to perform.

Furthermore, it is important for every person rendering alternative civilian service to have the opportunity to select his own alternative civilian service assignment. Thus, he can influence the type and location of his employment, as well as the time of his conscription.

Since 1 October 2004, young men have only had to perform nine months of alternative civilian service. The duration of the alternative civilian service was thus adjusted to match the duration of the basic military service in the German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr).

After the passing of the “Act on the Amendment of Act Law on the Promotion of the Voluntary Social Service Year and Other Act” (“Gesetz zur Änderung des
Gesetzes zur Förderung eines freiwilligen sozialen Jahres und anderer Gesetze”) by the Bundestag on 27 May 2002, it was made easier for young people to undertake a voluntary assignment from 1 June 2002. Recognised conscientious objectors thus have the possibility to serve a Voluntary Social Service Year or a Voluntary Ecological Service Year instead of the alternative civilian service. The vital prerequisite for the recognition of these voluntary services as an equivalent to the alternative civilian service is that the status as a conscientious objector must have been recognised prior to performing the voluntary service.

The text of the Act is available at: http://bundesrecht.juris.de/ersdig/.

SUMMARY OF THE AGE-RELATED LEGAL REGULATIONS

**Age-related Legal Regulations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age-related Legal Regulations</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The legal capacity of a person begins with their birth</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the age of three to the start of school, children are entitled to attend a nursery (section 24 of the Social Code/SGB VIII)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of the compulsory school attendance</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission to the films approved for the respective age group</td>
<td>6, 12, 16, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minor who has turned seven has limited legal competence in accordance with sections 107 to 113 of the German Civil Code (BGB)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anyone who has not yet turned seven is not responsible for damage that he/she causes to others</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a declaration of intent that is not advantageous only to him/her, a minor (under the age of 18) requires the consent of his/her legal representative (section 107 of the German Civil Code/BGB)</td>
<td>7–18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the minor has unlimited legal competence, his/her consent replaces the consent of the representative</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child labour is generally forbidden up until the age of 15. Exceptions are permitted</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUMMARY OF THE AGE-RELATED LEGAL REGULATIONS

Active and passive right to vote for youth representatives in companies

Limited criminal responsibility

Crimes committed by young persons (14–18) are always tried by juvenile courts; this also applies to adolescents (18–21) who at the time of the crime – based on their moral and mental development – were equivalent to the status of a juvenile

Unlimited criminal responsibility

Right to acquire a driving licence for:
- Motorised bikes up to a speed of 25 km/h
- Mopeds up to 50 km/h and light motorcycles up to 80 km/ph
- Automobiles (class 3) and motorbikes up to 20 kW (class 1a)
  Probationary period for supervised driving
- Motorbikes (class 1), provided the person has had licence 1a for at least two years
- Lorries (class 2)

Permission to take up full-time employment, dependent on the duration of compulsory full-time school attendance in the individual Federal Ländere

Night shifts are permitted from

Sale of tobacco products to young people, including from cigarette vending machines and

Smoking in public from

Sale of alcoholic beverages to young people permitted from

Permission to attend public dance events up to 12 midnight

Marriage with the consent of the guardianship court is possible if the future spouse is of age

Duty to possess a personal identification card from

A person should not be married until they have come of age (of marriageable age). The family court can grant a petition to exempt the person from this regulation if the petitioner has turned 16 and his/her future spouse is of age

With the consent of their parents, boys can sign up for basic military service
Beginning of military service duty for men. Since 1 January 2002, the duration of the basic military service has been nine months.

Women may render armed service, but may not be obligated to do so (Basic Law (Grundgesetz) Art. 12a, resolution of the Bundestag of 27 October 2000).

For adults, the following constitutes a punishable offence:
- Performing sexual acts on a child or having a child perform sexual acts on an adult
- Ordering a child to perform sexual acts on a third party or letting a third party perform sexual acts on him/her
- Affecting a child by showing pornographic images or depictions by playing sound recording and storage mediums of pornographic content or by talking accordingly
- Seducing girls under the age of 16 to perform sexual intercourse
- Sexual abuse of charges under the age of 18

The right to join a trade union, as soon as an apprenticeship or working relationship has commenced.

End of compulsory school attendance.

Majority from.

Active and passive right to vote from.

Age of consent for the acquisition and possession of firearms for hunters, after passing the hunters’ examination.

Age of consent for the acquisition and possession of firearms.

Capability to serve as an lay judge or member of the jury.
CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY

Child and youth policy in Germany is characterised by a diversity of levels and responsibilities. In line with Germany’s federal structure, child and youth policy is not only a matter for the Federal Government but also for the Länder, municipal authorities and voluntary child and youth service organisations in the framework of their partnership with public agencies.

Consequently, the Federal Government understands child and youth policy as a general responsibility of society, a challenge which all societal groups and protagonists need to face. In this context, the Federal Government defines its child and youth policy as:

- Firstly, a governmental policy anchored in the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. In addition to the central issues of the Ministry’s youth policy such as youth welfare and protection, alternative civilian service, the Voluntary Social Service Year/Voluntary Ecological Service Year, etc., the Ministry is also responsible for, inter alia, central programmes of the Federal Government’s youth policy and important youth policy interfaces with other policy areas.
- Secondly, a cross-sectional responsibility across all Federal Ministries whose policies have a direct or indirect impact on the different situations in a young person’s life. These include education policy (school, university, vocational training), labour market, social, health, justice, interior, regional and urban policies.
- Thirdly, an enabling child and youth policy. Through co-operation with other societal players, child and youth policy improves the social opportunities of children and young people in different areas, supports them in coping with everyday life and encourages their involvement.

Policies suitable for children and young people need to focus on the difference in circumstances, multi-faceted environments and the diversity of being young. In this context, youth policy needs to take into account the fact that the young people of today are confronted with greater diversity and different social challenges than in the past. Child and youth policy has to create spaces for individual problem-solving strategies and ensure equal opportunities.

Fair development perspectives and enhanced equal opportunities are the central goals of a child and youth policy that is oriented towards justice. The prerequisites are the maximum possible involvement of young people in society, politics and business, and the prevention of their social marginalisation.

The task of child and youth policy is to give young people scope to fully develop their personality and talents in society. The offerings of child and youth policy complement parental education as well as school and vocational
training. Child and youth policy must make a contribution towards facilitating the integration of young people into an open pluralist society in an increasingly complex world.

Child and youth policy is at the top of the Federal Government’s agenda. Child and youth policy is a policy for the future of our society. Both society and politics need a forward-looking perspective and the vigour of the next generation.

The objective of the Federal Government’s youth policy is to create fair and equal opportunities and options for the young generation. In order to enforce this claim, the Federal Government wants to improve the overall political, societal and social conditions for young people and give adequate importance to child and youth policy as a means to open up the necessary development opportunities for the young generation.

The introduction of parenting benefits, initiatives to improve the situation of childcare facilities and the action programme for multi-generational centres are examples of important milestones for enhanced equal opportunities and greater cohesion in our society.

Young people need to have the opportunity to make active use of their chances on the basis of self-determination, which includes the equality of girls and boys, young women and young men. It has become more important than ever to find suitable responses to the processes of modernisation and pluralisation in a changing society. Dealing with contradictory and constantly changing expectations and developments in the field of communication and new media is a constant challenge not only for young people, but also for policy-makers.

Youth research has shown that young people tend to take a critical view of democratic day-to-day life and in particular the central political institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany. They react to political and economic changes, pinpoint specific problems and expect to see solutions in these areas. Young people would like to have more opportunities for involvement and democratic participation in schools, universities, at work and in their immediate environment. Many young people are willing to make social and political commitments. However, their willingness for commitment is not so much directed at established political organisations and processes, but rather at areas which are less institutionalised and whose contents they can determine to a greater extent. Enhancing the participation and involvement of children and young people in political and societal processes is of paramount importance.

The threat to our democracy emanating from right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, violence and terrorism represents a particular challenge. This is why a debate on right-wing extremism and how to combat this phenomenon is one of the major tasks of youth policy. In addition to the necessary repressive measures, the programmes to combat right-wing extremism implemented against extremism and violence under the auspices of the Alli-
ance for Democracy and Tolerance have a particular focus on strengthening our democratic culture and educating young people in the spirit of democracy and tolerance.

There are some 15 million people in Germany with a migrant background, i.e. almost 19% of the total population – among under 25-year-olds, they account for as many as 27%. Their integration is a task of national importance and must be addressed by the entire society. The National Integration Plan launched by the Federal Government in July 2007 pursues new paths of an enabling and sustainable integration policy that recognises and enhances the potential of migrants.

The strengthening of focal points in youth policy is oriented towards the different situations in which children and young people find themselves. The objective is to create overall political and social conditions for young people in such a way that they find the scope and resources to make it possible for them to cope with the processes of increasing individualism and pluralisation in our society, and actively participate in its development.

Child and youth policy is an inter-departmental task which aims to develop improvement processes oriented towards the respective situation and social context by increasing the networking of different welfare concepts and developing new forms of co-operation between all players in situ. However, it is also necessary to establish this understanding of child and youth policy as a cross-sectional task at the superordinate political level. There is no policy sector that can afford to ignore the consequences of political actions for the situation of children and young people. Policy sectors where this is obvious include, for instance, family policy, education policy, and labour market policy. But actions in other policy areas such as the environment, transport and economic policies have a direct impact on the opportunities of young people to sustainably shape their own lives.

A particular challenge for child and youth policy is to provide equal opportunities for participation in society to all young people regardless of their social, cultural and ethnic origin, in particular to give them access to a reasonable working life in line with their qualifications. This is why one of the major development tasks of politics is to provide underprivileged young people who cannot be blamed for their situation with specific and individual support. It is necessary for all young people to benefit from the opportunities offered by a changing society.

This includes giving all children and young people the opportunity to use the chances offered by the international training and working environment resulting from technical progress in Europe by acquiring professional skills such as foreign languages at an early stage.

However, young people should get to know other countries and cultures; this helps to prevent the onset of xenophobia and racism. In our day and age, special
importance must be attached to this intercultural dialogue. Young people must learn about common features and differences which help them to develop mutual respect, understanding and interest in others – and in different cultural or religious backgrounds.

Based on the overall objectives of child and youth policy, the Federal Government has defined the following three central action points for its current agenda:
- Improving the integration of young people in society and at work;
- Strengthening civil society – promoting options for involvement and individual initiative;
- Enhancing legal protection of children and young people.

Child and youth policy and child and youth services are designed and promoted at the Federal, Länder and municipal levels in the Federal Republic of Germany (see Graphic 2).

THE FEDERAL LEVEL

At the Federal level, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend – BMFSFJ) formulates and coordinates the objectives of child and youth policy on behalf of the Federal Government. The central funding instrument of child and youth policy and child and youth welfare in the context of the Federal Ministry is the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes); see Graphic 1.

The following section lists the parliamentary organisations as well as all departments with their respective political responsibilities for child and youth policy. Any inter-departmental tasks are listed under the relevant ministry responsible for the coordination of individual programmes.

Committees of the Bundestag (German Parliament)

The committees of the Bundestag are the central bodies assigned the task of supervising the Government’s activities. The Bundestag has set up its committees as a mirror image of the division of labour between the Federal Ministries.
In the 16th legislative period, the 13th committee of the Bundestag has 31 members and has either lead responsibility or a consultative function for all bills, motions, reports and resolutions as well as EU proposals on the subjects that relate to the policy areas of its field of activity. At the same time, the committee is a parliamentary instance and supervises the activities of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. In the 15th legislative period, the committee addressed 644 proposals and had lead responsibility for 62. In addition to in-camera meetings, there are public hearings and delegation missions for fact-finding purposes. In addition, the committee obtains information in the course of its meetings as well as outside of its meetings by talking to representatives of the Federal Government, associations and experts about the subjects in its field of activity.

The central political issues in the committee’s policy areas are:

- Family policy
  - Quality-focused expansion of childcare facilities in line with demand, particularly for children under three years of age;
  - Better infrastructure for families (multi-generational centres and early learning programmes for children)
  - Financial support for families, in particular the parenting benefit and the further development of child supplements;
  - Improved work/life balance and family-friendly working conditions.
- Women’s policy
  - Report on the gender equality of women and men
  - Equal opportunities on the labour market
  - Fighting violence against women
  - Evaluating experience with anonymous births
  - Reviewing the situation regarding late abortions.
- Youth and children
  - Education, training and care before and in conjunction with school
  - Improving the involvement of children and young people
- Equal opportunities in education
- Growing up without violence, evaluation of the Youth Protection Act
- Opportunities for underprivileged young people, initiatives for integration at work
- Commitment to tolerance and democracy
- Child and youth services.

- Senior citizens
  - Recognising and using the potential of elderly people
  - Ensuring assistance for elderly people
  - Right to a nursing home place
  - Demographic change.

- Alternative civilian service and voluntary service
  - Further developments in alternative civilian service
  - Extending voluntary services for youth and inter-generational voluntary services.

- Strengthening voluntary civic commitment
  - Improving the overall legal conditions for voluntary civic commitment
  - Dialogue with organisations, associations, and federations, etc., with a voluntary civic commitment.

- Migration and integration
  - Youth migration services
  - Integration
  - The problem of forced marriages.

**Kinderkommission (Children’s Committee)**
(Committee Representing the Interests of Children)

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E-Mail: kinderkommission@bundestag.de, Internet: www.bundestag.de

The Committee Representing the Interests of Children (Children’s Committee) of the Bundestag was established in 1988. It is a sub-committee of the Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of the Bundestag, which means that it is smaller than the full committee and has a special task: representing the interests of children and young people. All regular members of the Children’s Committee are also members of the Committee, which enables them to represent the children’s interests in the full Committee and to have access to the parliamentary scope available to committees of the Bundestag.
Children are the weakest members of our society who need special protection. They are neither able to organise themselves or make their interests heard; they have to rely on parents and political organisations to take their interests into consideration.

At the beginning, prior to establishing the Children’s Committee, there were many requests for the Bundestag to appoint a Children’s Commissioner. Over the course of time, every parliamentary group appointed a Children’s Commissioner. The Parliament’s Council of Elders decided on 21 April and 5 May 1988 to set up the Committee Representing the Interests of Children (Children’s Committee) whose members were the Children’s Commissioners of the parliamentary groups.

This was a unique event in the history of the Bundestag, and it shows that the Bundestag wanted children to be explicitly taken care of and protected by a parliamentary body. The Committee is to be the guardian of children’s interests.

At the beginning of the legislative period, the Children’s Committee defines its work programme that lays down the focal points for the current term. The Committee has defined the following priorities for the 16th legislative period:
- Children and sports
- Children and the media
- Children and violence
- Children and health
- Children and disability
- Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Children and mobility
- Children and culture
- Children and everyday life
- Child poverty
- Children’s rights to self-determination and participation
- Child and youth welfare/Social services for children and young people
- Neglect of children and social marginalisation
- Elementary education - infant stimulation
- Children and food/Consumer protection

The Children’s Committee addresses other topics that come up during the current political debate, topical developments or subjects brought to its attention by associations or letters from children or parents.

On some topics, the rules of the Children’s Committee are special and differ from those of other parliamentary committees. It may only take action by unanimous agreement. If no agreement can be reached, each member may try to advocate his/her concerns. Moreover, the regular members rotate in chairing
the committee; the sequence is determined by the size of the parliamentary group.

The Children's Committee has various instruments at its disposal for safeguarding children's interests. The following are examples of these instruments:

1. It may organise public hearings on important topics of child policy.
2. It may convene in-camera expert meetings to develop a position on relevant topics.
3. It may carry out public relations work on topics of general interest to children.
4. It may call for more children's and young people's participation in society.

In the best sense of the word, the Children's Committee wants to provide parliamentary and extra-parliamentary representation of children's interests and to set signals in child policy. Within the scope of its time, technical and legal resources, it also wants to be a partner and patron to the associations, organisations and institutions that safeguard children's interests.

What the Committee cannot ensure is involvement in individual cases where children's interests are the subject of controversies between the parents and other parties involved. Whenever the Children's Committee receives requests for settlement of a dispute about the right of access to a child, revoking court rulings or influencing decisions by a Youth Office, it has to respond that this is not part of its mandate. There are certain basic rules for the tasks and responsibilities of the Committee which it cannot override.

The description of the Children's Committee's tasks shows that child policy requires permanent active commitment. The Committee is not able to do all that on its own; it needs support from the associations and organisations that address issues relevant for children and safeguard their interests. Moreover, the goodwill of all institutions of the Bundestag is necessary to make progress as well as the wide use of the Government's scope of action.

Due to the many interfaces and competencies at municipal level, it is also a concern of the Committee that as many cities and Länder parliaments as possible appoint Children's Commissioners/establish Children's Committees. And last but not least, the Children's Committee also needs the input of children and young people, who represent their own interests, want to actively shape their environment and tell the Committee where problems still need to be addressed.
**Bundeskanzleramt**  
(Federal Chancellery)

The Bundeskanzleramt (Federal Chancellery) has extraordinary political importance as the central coordinator of all governmental policy. The chief of staff of the Federal Chancellery coordinates interaction between the ministries. He is an important interface with the *Bundestag*, the *Länder*, social groups and individuals.

The Minister of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration and the Minister of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Commissioner for Culture and Media are advisors to and support the Federal Chancellor.

**Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration**  
(Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration)

Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration  
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The office of a Federal Government Commissioner for Foreigners and Integration was established in 1978. Since November 2005, the Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration has been given the status of Minister of the Federal Chancellery. The alignment of the Commissioner with the Federal Chancellery underlines the special importance that the Federal Government attaches to promoting integration as an inter-departmental responsibility. Though the Commissioner is appointed by the Federal Government, she is independent in exercising her mandate.

The Commissioner’s main responsibilities include promoting the integration of all migrants living in Germany, both men and women, representing the interests of all foreigners and EU citizens living in the territory of Germany, providing information on the legal options for naturalisation and fostering understanding between German and non-German nationals. The commissioner’s legal mandate ensures that she has political influence on all matters relevant to migration and integration. On the one hand, she acts on behalf of the German Government. On the other hand, her activities and recommendations are directed at the *Länder* and municipal level, the Member States and Institu-
Promoting integration is an inter-departmental task which is performed on different levels of responsibility and affects virtually all political sectors – from legislation to education and social policy, support for education and employment, child, youth and family policies to urban planning and consumer protection. Consequently, the Commissioner advocates the intercultural opening of all functional areas of society: From nurseries and schools to the working environment, culture, media and sport. The integration of children and young people always enjoys priority in all these sectors.

As part of her political mandate, the Commissioner has to address a wide range of issues and concerns specific to children and young people. The following are a few examples:

- Education and training situation of foreign children and young people and/or children and young people with a migration background;
- Improved options for learning German as a foreign language during all stages of the education system (nurseries, schools and vocational training);
- Measures to increase participation in education and training and parental involvement;
- Improved access to training and employment for young people whose deportation from Germany has been temporarily suspended and who have passed through the school system;
- Prevention of violence and the special problems of foreign boys; measures to improve the situation of foreign girls;
- Legal provisions on the age of children in family reunification and on reunification of family members;
- Including foreign families in family benefits;
- Introducing the right of birth into citizenship and naturalisation laws;
- Protection from expulsion for foreign young people who grew up in Germany; improved legal status for unaccompanied minor refugees.

In 1997, the office of the Commissioner was enshrined in the Aliens Act (beforehand, appointment by Cabinet). Since 2005, sections 92–94 of the Residence Act have defined the office, mandate and authority of the Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration.

Specific Political Initiatives and Programmes:

- One project by the Commissioner, which is primarily targeted at the integration of children and young people with a migration background, is an education mentor network, which is to be realised in co-operation with
foundations. The aim of the project is to initiate and network local and regional mentoring initiatives, and to create infrastructure and services that are conducive to voluntary commitment by education mentors.

- Child and youth-specific issues are a priority of the National Integration Plan (Nationaler Integrationsplan), which is developed upon the initiative of the Federal Chancellor with the lead responsibility of the Commissioner. The aim of this project is to create as broad as possible a consensus in society and in the political arena about the need for integration and to promote integration with special involvement of migrants’ pressure groups and organisations.

In July 2006, the Federal Chancellor invited representatives of the Federal Government, the Länder, municipal authorities, employers and trade unions, the media, non-governmental institutions and associations as well as migrants to the first National Integration Summit (Nationaler Integrationsgipfel). All parties agreed to devise an integration plan within a period of one year that formulates joint objectives, necessary actions and specific voluntary commitments of all stakeholders in central areas of social integration. This integration plan addresses issues such as promoting language training, education, the training and apprenticeship market, the situation of women and girls, integration in local communities as well as the integration potential of culture, media, sport and voluntary commitment. The plan was submitted in July 2007 and presented to the public by the Federal Chancellor. Planned follow-up activities include future events and regular reports on results obtained.

- The Diversity Charter (Charta der Vielfalt) initiative is intended to contribute to a culture of diversity and acceptance; it was launched as a joint initiative by companies operating in Germany and the Commissioner. By signing the Charter, companies and public-sector employers commit themselves to promoting diversity of individual and group-specific experience, skills and views – caused, inter alia, by migration – in their corporate culture and employment structure, and specifically develop it as an asset.

Against the backdrop of this initiative, the Commissioner launched a nationwide campaign and series of competitions entitled "Diversity at work/Diversity as an employment resource" (Vielfalt am Arbeitsplatz/Vielfalt als Beschäftigungsressource) in 2007 which was aimed at migrants living in Germany being more integrated into the labour and apprenticeship market, in particular at giving them greater influence in corporate and public recruitment and HR policies. One of the campaign’s priority targets is improved access to education and training for young people with a migration background.
Inter-departmental Co-operation Levels

The post of the Commissioner is an inter-departmental responsibility. In the context of the Federal Government, she has to be consulted from an early stage in all legislation processes of the Federal Ministries, as well as any other projects that are related to her mandate. The Federal Ministries are to support her in fulfilling her mandate. The Commissioner has the right to make proposals and submit comments, and she may request statements if public authorities of the Federal Government discriminate against foreigners for unjustified reasons or fail to protect their rights. The Commissioner supports and advises in particular the Federal Government in fine-tuning its integration policy with a view to promoting co-existence between Germans and migrants, and she works towards better coordination of integration schemes.

In addition to that, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Integration (Interministerielle Arbeitsgruppe Integration) was established under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesinnenministerium) in March 2005 in order to continuously synchronise and coordinate the projects of the Federal Ministries responsible for promoting integration which brings together all federal departments and Commissioners that promote integration and whose task it is to coordinate all projects of the Federal Government that promote integration, network the departments’ activities, further develop them in the context of an overall concept and help to apply the Federal Government’s integration policy in a cohesive manner.

The Commissioner has an independent reporting obligation to the Bundestag. Every two years, she submits a comprehensive report on the situation of foreigners, both men and women, in Germany, which forms the basis for the Bundestag to address a wide range of issues that are relevant to migration and integration. The report attaches great importance to child and youth-specific issues and covers them on a regular basis.

With a view to coordinating and networking tasks within and between the levels of our federal structure, the Foreigners’ and Integration Commissioners of the Länder and municipal authorities play a central role, serving as an interface between administrations, political decision-makers, associations, migrants’ interests and the public; together with the Commissioner, they constitute a nation-wide network structure which addresses integration policy as a cross-sectional policy. The Commissioners of the Federal Government, the Länder and municipal authorities meet at a national conference every year to address different priorities.
The National Integration Plan (Nationaler Integrationsplan)

The National Integration Plan (Nationaler Integrationsplan) puts the integration initiatives of the Federal Government, the Länder, municipal authorities and volunteer organisations on a common footing. The Federal Government has adopted more than 400 measures and voluntary commitments to integration together with the Länder and municipal authorities, migrants’ associations and numerous other non-governmental players. Federal Chancellor Merkel referred to a milestone in the history of integration policies.

There are some 15 million people with a migrant background in Germany. More than half of them have German citizenship. Many were born in Germany. Integration is a task of national importance and one for the whole of society.

For the first time, all government levels conducted a dialogue and reached an agreement with the most important stakeholders from voluntary organisations and migrants on a joint plan for a sustainable integration policy. This dialogue is based on a solid foundation: Employers and trade unions, churches and religious communities, welfare organisations and foundations, media, cultural representatives, sport clubs and migrants are all involved.

The National Integration Plan presented on 12 July 2007 contains clear objectives, specific measures and voluntary commitments by the governmental and non-governmental players. They are complemented by criteria for evaluating and implementing the objectives and measures.

The Federal Government is embarking on a new path of an enabling and sustainable integration policy which recognises and enhances migrants’ potential. Those migrants, both men and women, who continue to opt out of integration, have to expect sanctions.

Guidelines for Integration Policy: Successful Integration Policy

- means dialogue and close co-operation. The National Integration Plan is the result of close and constructive co-operation with migrants, both men and women. It is the right path for the Federal Government, the Länder, municipal authorities and non-governmental organisations to get migrants and their organisations on board when it comes to formulating and planning integration schemes.
- identifies and exploits potential. It relies on the manifold talents, performance and commitment of migrants, both men and women, avoids clichés and understands problems as challenges and opportunities to advance society;
- recognises the key role played by women with a migrant background. It is women in particular who have a decisive influence on the integration of the next generation due to their role at work and in the family, and with their humanitarian, social and political commitment. This is why we need
to strengthen the potential of women and girls. Improved prevention of and enhanced protection against domestic violence are indispensable;

- builds on active commitment by its citizens. Integration is not only a responsibility of the government, it needs active commitment from the members of society, with as many people as possible shouldering responsibility and developing initiatives;

- gains its strength from the sense of responsibility and commitment of all stakeholders. The involvement of all stakeholders with contributions of their own will make the National Integration Plan sustainable, effective and specific. It becomes binding by 400 or so voluntary commitments taken on by all the parties involved;

- is an inter-departmental task at all levels. The Federal Government, the Länder and municipal authorities commit to an enabling and sustainable integration policy. However, individual measures need to be better synchronised;

- has to be targeted. Migrants do not constitute a homogeneous group. This is why promotion concepts need to be tailored to the individual, his/her abilities, skills and need for integration;

- is oriented towards the facts. This is why research on, statistics and findings about the overall conditions for successful integration need to be substantially improved. In addition to nationality, the respective migration background needs to be a criterion applied for the planning and review of integration policy;

- needs to be judged on the basis of clear indicators, which need to be reviewed on a regular basis and become a foundation for formalised reporting and evaluation.

Values and cultural identity, as well as the free and democratic order which has evolved from German and European history, and has been constitutionally anchored in the Basic Law, form the basis for integration. Integration cannot be prescribed. It requires efforts on the part of all stakeholders, government and society, which is constituted by people with and without a migration background.

What is essential is the willingness of migrants to be open-minded towards a life in Germany’s society, to accept, without reservation, the Basic Law and the entire legal system and in particular to express their sense of belonging to Germany by learning German. On the part of the host society, acceptance, tolerance, social and civil commitment are required as well as the readiness to honestly welcome people who live in Germany lawfully.

The National Integration Plan can be downloaded from www.bmj.de.
The Federal Level

Beauftragter der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM)
(Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media)

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In line with the Basic Law, supporting culture is primarily a responsibility of the Länder and municipalities in the Federal Republic of Germany. They bear the bulk of cultural expenditure while the Federal Government contributes approximately 12% of public funds to promoting art and culture. In 1998, the Federal Government’s activities in art and media policies were pooled, and the post of Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media was created in the Federal Chancellery. Since then, the interests of culture have been represented at the national level in the Federal Cabinet.

Promoting Art and Culture of National Importance

To complement the responsibilities of the Länder and municipalities, the Federal Government is responsible for representing German culture on a national level. Hence, the Federal Government, through the Commissioner for Culture and Media, sponsors cultural institutions and projects of national importance all over Germany. These include the big national archives and libraries, important museums and memorial as well as supra-regional projects to promote and propagate art and culture. The institutions include, inter alia, the museums and collections of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz), Foundation of Weimar Classics (Klassik Stiftung Weimar), Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland Foundation, German Historical Museum (Deutsches Historisches Museum), Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany (Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland) in Bonn. Almost all of the organisations sponsored put a special emphasis on sharing the experience of art, culture and historical knowledge with children and young people.

The focus of the Commissioner’s work is on the upkeep and preservation of Germany’s cultural heritage and sponsoring extraordinary centres of
commemoration and education on German history, and on promoting contemporary art and culture as well as artists. Young talented artists are also supported at a national level by the commissioner by, inter alia, various competitions and sponsorships by the German Music Council (Deutscher Musikrat).

The Commissioner’s tasks are also fulfilled in a special way by the Cultural Foundation of the Federal Government (Kulturstiftung des Bundes) which finances, among other things, a number of self-administered funds in individual cultural sectors and, in addition, launches initiatives in arts and cultural policies that are valuable and sustainable contributions to cultural life in the Federal Republic of Germany. Hence, the Cultural Foundation of the Federal Government supports the initiative “Children climb Mount Olympus” (Kinder zum Olymp) developed by the Cultural Foundation of the Länder (Kulturstiftung der Länder). The sponsoring of the project “A musical instrument for every child” (Jedem Kind ein Instrument) in the Ruhr region, which is a co-operation with the Land of Northrhine-Westphalia and other partners, represents an example of sustainable improvement and development of music education.

The Commissioner supports in a special way the representative functions of the Federal Capital by sponsoring cultural institutions, memorials and projects in Berlin that are of national importance. The Federal Capital’s cultural fund also makes it possible to realise, among other things, outstanding projects of cultural activities for children and young people.

In the field of media policy, the Commissioner sponsors Deutsche Welle, spreading German language and culture abroad through Germany’s international broadcasting service, and ensures unbiased and pluralistic coverage. Last but not least, the Commissioner also promotes the German film industry through numerous awards, sponsoring of productions, strengthening Germany as a base for the film industry, festivals and promoting the export and international exchange of films. In this context, he also promotes the production of children’s and youth films, as well as of film festivals in this sector that are of supra-regional importance. Vision Kino gGmbH (Vision Cinema Ltd.) sponsors projects to develop children’s and young people’s media competence. Other initiatives are aimed at improving children’s and young people’s competence in handling new media.

Create and Improve Overall Conditions

The legislative powers laid down in the Basic Law assign responsibility for areas that have great influence on the development of art and culture to the Federal Government. These areas of law include copyright law, charity law, donation law, and the preservation of cultural heritage or social security for self-employed artists.
The Commissioner does not only review parliamentary bills on a regular basis to ensure that they do not have any negative impact on the cultural sector; he also advocates improved overall legal and financial conditions for art and culture.

In the field of media policy, the primary task is to provide a suitable political framework and scope for the rapidly changing progress of the information society. Economic interests, consumer protection as well as objectives of communication and cultural policies need to be accommodated. This applies not only to the new media, but also to public broadcasting. An area of special importance is, for instance, legal protection of young people in electronic media.

Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth)

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The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is responsible for the following policy sectors of the Federal Government:

Family Affairs

The Ministry
- develops family benefits (child allowance, education allowance, advance alimony payments, maternity protection),
- ensures that family interests are defended in all policies of the Federal Government (e.g. in tax laws, housing allowances, old-age pension insurance, etc.),
- creates better conditions for shared parental responsibilities of fathers and mothers (parental leave, education allowance, family-friendly working environment, day-care facilities for children),
- raises and changes public awareness through models that strengthen, among other things, the role of fathers
- in favour of non-violent education
- to prevent poverty,
- supports the institutions of family services (family associations, family education, family counselling, self-help organisations, leisure-time and holiday planning),
- sponsors research on the situation and development of families.

Senior Citizens

The Ministry
- launches model projects to help senior citizens to live independently, both men and women, in society and to provide high-quality assistance and care for the elderly,
- improves the overall legal conditions e.g. through the Old-age Nursing Act and the Nursing Home Act,
- initiates research projects designed to improve the decision-making basis in policies on senior citizens in view of demographic change,
- supports European and international co-operation on a governmental level, as well as with associations and organisations defending the interests of senior citizens,
- sponsors senior citizens’ organisations that support the elderly in defending their interests and advocates solidarity between generations.

Gender Equality

The Ministry
- has lead responsibility in drafting federal laws to enforce gender equality and has an influence on draft bills of other Federal Ministries to the extent that they affect women’s or gender equality issues,
- develops programmes and initiatives to ensure equality of women in politics, society and at work, and to reduce violence against women,
- conducts research and model projects and publishes their outcomes,
- sponsors and supports women’s organisations and nation-wide networks in the field of legal equality,
- provides impetus for the implementation of the gender mainstreaming concept in the general routines of the Federal Ministries to ensure that the issue of equality of women and men is taken into account in every project of the Federal Government,
THE FEDERAL LEVEL

- chairs the Federal Government and Länder working group to combat domestic violence against women and the national working group on trafficking in women.

Children and Young People

The Ministry
- has lead responsibility for existing federal laws, e.g. Book VIII of the Social Code (Child and Youth Services Act) and the Youth Protection Act,
- defends, as a cross-sectional responsibility and in close contact with other Federal Ministries, the Länder and municipal authorities as well as youth welfare services, the interests of children and young people in all policy sectors, in particular in the field of education, health and the labour market,
- supports and sponsors inter-regional and national voluntary organisations of child and youth welfare in their diversity of values, contents, methods and working processes,
- contributes towards developing and implementing European youth programmes,
- commissions independent experts to provide information on the situation of young people in Germany and sponsors research projects in this context,
- uses evaluations of model projects and their outcome to further develop child and youth services, thus providing evidence of their effectiveness.

Alternative Civilian Service

The Ministry
- is responsible for the legislation enshrined in the Conscientious Objection Act and the Act on Alternative Civilian Service, and is involved in bills that may affect conscientious objection or alternative civilian service,
- develops structures in which this mandatory service is enforced on a nationwide level,
- exercises technical, legal and administrative supervision of the Federal Agency for Alternative Civilian Service (Bundesamt für Zivildienst) which is responsible for the recognition, drafting and counselling of conscripts as well as the recognition and support of organisations where alternative civilian service can be served,
- manages co-operation with associations of voluntary welfare organisations that provide the bulk of jobs for conscientious objectors,
- regulates, among other things, monetary and in-kind remuneration, medical welfare services, subsistence benefits, family visits of conscientious objectors and their further education.
Welfare Work, Civic Commitment

The Ministry
- promotes the work of welfare organisations, as well as a number of other social associations and organisations at Federal level,
- supports nation-wide infrastructures and forms of national recognition of voluntary civic commitment,
- promotes research on voluntary social commitment,
- advocates the sponsoring and further development of the Voluntary Social Service Year or the Voluntary Ecological Service Year as alternative civilian service, and is responsible for further developing the legal framework for alternative civilian service.

Funding and supporting children and young people and their families is the focus in all actions of the Federal Government. The task of the Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is to develop approaches for all issues fundamental to child and youth policy – also across Federal Ministries – and to co-operate in these matters with all its partners – other Federal Ministries, the Länder and provider organisations. Moreover, the Ministry is responsible for managing technical co-operation between the different areas of responsibility, for initiating projects and (model) actions in child and youth policy and addressing issues of youth research.

The Ministry’s policy planning is based on a strategic direction, which lays down priority action points in relation to current events that reflect the Ministry’s political priorities.

The following are some selected priorities with particular relevance for child and youth policy which will be explained in the context of child and youth policy.

1. Family Policy and Family Support

Sustainable family policy creates a reliable framework for families and contributes to a family-friendly society. Family policies must create overall conditions that encourage people to opt for a life with children and family. A future-oriented family policy must be aligned with the realities and models of life designed by men and women; this is one of the most important foundations.

The social circumstances for the successful family model have changed drastically. 30 years ago, only one in four women attended university or another higher education institution; today, women account for more than 50% of students. The proportion of women between 25 and 45 in gainful employment is almost 80 per cent. Nowadays, women rarely get married and start a
family immediately after graduating from school. The average age of women when they have their first baby is now 30; at this age, most women are gainfully employed.

Temporary leave from work or absence from working life to look after a child often causes families in Germany to suffer drastic financial cut backs. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth supports young women and men so that they can opt for children without suffering any setbacks in securing their livelihood.

The Ministry ensures families’ income situation after childbirth through a parenting benefit introduced on 1 January 2007. This parenting benefit depends on the income of the parent taking care of the child, thus providing also for him/her. The parenting benefit shows that society has for the first time found an appropriate response to either the woman or the man putting their job on the backburner for a while to take care of their child – without losing sight of the job because of child care. The aim of the parenting benefit is to promote economic independence of families.

By providing targeted financial support, the Federal Government wants to reduce material child poverty. The child supplement for low-income families is a suitable instrument. It is designed to help families whose income is merely adequate to cover the parents’ needs and does not the needs of their child/ren.

The new provisions for improved tax deductibility of child care costs not only provide financial relief to families, but also contribute to an improved work/life balance and may also create jobs within family households.

Education means making children fit for life. Education is to help them find their place in society and become responsible for their actions. However, education also means teaching children about values. Promoting the educational competence of parents means to make mothers and fathers sensitive to their child’s strengths and enable them to create the best possible prerequisites for the child/ren’s development. Support means to help them help themselves: Make parents strong so they can make their children strong. Children need to experience the importance of respect, consideration, fairness and justice in our society.

The Ministry supports parents in fulfilling their educational responsibilities. The two major Christian churches face up to this challenge in a special way and open a broad dialogue in society about value-oriented and religious education. They took a first step to form an Alliance for Education (Bündnis für Erziehung) together with their social welfare agencies and professional associations; this Alliance was a proposal by the Federal Ministry. The Federal Family Forum (Bundesforum für Familie) coordinates the enlargement of the Alliance to include other important stakeholders in family affairs. The joint objective is to strengthen the commitment and skills of all who are responsible for the education of children and young people.
A holistic family policy fosters and strengthens the cohesion of generations, and hence the cohesion of society as a whole. Shared values and shared experiences build bridges – including between generations. Based on this conviction, the Ministry developed e.g. the action programme for multi-generational centres.

A successful and sustainable family policy can only be implemented with strong partners and strategic alliances. Those who have a family pursue a family-friendly approach. The large-scale initiative Local Alliances for the Family (Lokale Bündnisse für Familie, www.lokale-buendnisse-fuer-familie.de) of the Federal Ministry pools the commitments by companies, municipal authorities, chambers, associations, churches and welfare organisations in hundreds of different locations.

The nation-wide initiative is aimed at improving the specific living and working conditions for families. Local Alliances for the Family are mergers of social groups and stakeholders. Joint commitment by strong partners from the business environment, municipal authorities, trade unions, churches, associations and initiatives makes it possible to achieve practical improvements particularly in the field of work/life balance. Free counselling facilities provided by a service bureau funded jointly by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the European Social Fund encourage these alliances which implement projects on the ground to create a family-friendlier environment.

The measures range from information packages to traineeships and training opportunities (trade shows and exchanges for training, information brochures), organising internships in companies that provide insight into different industries (e.g. tours through selected companies, one-day internships), assistance in looking for an apprenticeship (e.g. senior mentors, training for interviews or being accompanied by representatives of a local business) to arranging apprenticeships or creating flexible training models (e.g. part-time training). Moreover, enterprises are sensitised to a more family-friendly and thus more youth-friendly corporate and HR policy.

A family-friendly working environment and business policy is an essential component of sustainable family policy. It must be made easier to opt for children and a family. A market for family services may facilitate the decision because it ensures a better work/life balance.

Germany has a multitude of government schemes and benefits that support families in different situations and during different phases of their lives. The project Competence Centre for Family-Related Services and Benefits (Kompetenzzentrum für familienbezogene Leistungen) launched in October 2006 explores the interaction, efficiency and effectiveness of such services and benefits, and develops proposals for harmonisation and pooling of efforts. Its priorities include better support for families with infants, families with three
or more children as well as income support and the professional success of mothers and fathers. An interdisciplinary group of renowned scientists, both men and women, advises the Federal Ministry.

A family friendly environment has become a hard competitive and location factor. The business programme entitled “Success Factor Family. Attracting Business” (Erfolgsfaktor Familie. Unternehmen gewinnen, www.erfolgsfaktor-familie.de) launched by the Federal Ministry is intended to translate broad acceptance for families into a daily routine in as many enterprises as possible. The aim is to make a family-friendly attitude a management issue and turn it into a trademark of Germany’s industry. To this end, the programme will disseminate relevant information on work/life balance to businessmen and women, management and HR executives throughout Germany.

The programme entitled “Family Venture – Innovations Through Family-Supporting Services” (Unternehmen Familie – Innovationen durch Familien unterstützende Dienstleistungen) initiated by the Federal Ministry started in July 2007. The programme aims at creating jobs in the service industry and enabling private households as employers and market players. It is designed to raise the macro-economic potential of families. A market for family services offers promising development potential.

“Family Venture” is implemented by the Robert Bosch Foundation and funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and contributions from the European Union’s Social Fund (ESF).

For years, the Federal Ministry has been sponsoring a number of measures to strengthen parents’ educational competence, aiming at infant stimulation and reaching all parents, in particular those who urgently need support.

The Federal Ministry commissioned the State Institute for Infant Education (Staatsinstitut für Frühpädagogik) in Munich to develop, in the context of a research project, standards for accompanied and supervised access to children, which were outlined in a manual published in late 2007 (W. E. Fthenakis et al.: Deutsche Standards zum begleiteten Umgang, Beck-Verlag Munich 2007). Pursuant to these standards, access to a child depends on a third person being present. After parents separate, they often have disputes about the access right to the child. In 2005 alone, there were more than 36,000 court cases as a result of these disputes. Judges had to rule because parents were unable to reach an agreement on access to their child on their own, and nor were youth welfare offices and counselling organisations successful either with the means and instruments available to them. If accompanied access is to be successful and pleasant for the child, a consistent concept based on sound empirical research is vital.

The Federal Ministry sponsors the project Protecting the child in case of highly controversial parental relations (Kinderschutz bei hochstrittiger Elternschaft) implemented by the German Youth Institute. The project aims not only to mitigate the effects of escalating conflicts between parents with a
view to protecting the child, but it is also intended to reduce the costs of such disputed custody trials. At present, 10,000 minors at least are affected by such escalating conflicts between their parents every year. The project runs from July 2007 to December 2009, and will be implemented at six locations. The results of the work will be translated into practical expert recommendations.

Measures range from German and Turkish letters to parents containing information and recommendations on educational issues, an online family manual on the Internet, also with Turkish contributions, to a multitude of projects on non-violent education - special reference should be made to the national campaign **More respect for children** (Mehr Respekt vor Kindern). Model projects to encourage structural improvements in family education and counselling also play an important role; their aim is to make the threshold for access to existing services provide as low as possible.

The web portal **FAMILIEN-WEGWEISER.DE** (Family Guide, [www.familien-wegweiser.de](http://www.familien-wegweiser.de)) of the Federal Ministry is an invitation to information and counselling on all matters that relate to children and families such as: Starting a family, families with babies and infants, children up to 14 years or parental leave, education allowance, child allowance, child support, maternity protection, advance alimony payment etc.

Against the backdrop of demographic change in Europe, the European Council believes that it is necessary to raise the profile of family-friendly policies. During the time of Germany’s EU presidency, the Federal Government therefore initiated a **European Alliance for Families** (Europäische Allianz für Familien) which has been endorsed by the EU Heads of State and Government.

The Alliance for Families is to support the European Union’s efforts to ensure future growth, employment and prosperity in Europe. Through the Commission’s involvement, the alliance serves as a platform for an intensive exchange of views and information on family-friendly policies between EU Member States. The European Alliance for Families features an information platform that provides detailed national information on the family policy measures of individual EU Member States ([http://europaeische-allianz-fuer-familien.de](http://europaeische-allianz-fuer-familien.de)).

### 2. Gender Equality Policy

The objective of the Federal Government’s gender equality policy is to create equal opportunities for men and women in all walks of life. This implies equal opportunities for men and women with or without child/ren, of all ages and in different phases of life or in special situations.

The entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty (EU Treaty) on 1 May 1999 for the first time defines a gender mainstreaming approach in a legally binding
format. The Treaty obliges EU Member States to pursue an active gender equality policy in the spirit of gender mainstreaming.

**Gender mainstreaming** means that all projects need to take into account the different circumstances of men and women and the implications on both genders. In June 1999, the Federal Government included gender mainstreaming in the rules of procedure (Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries). In the version of 26 July 2000, the rules of procedure stipulate, “Equality of men and women is a consistent fundamental principle and needs to be promoted by all political, harmonising and administrative measures of the Federal Government in all sectors (gender mainstreaming).”

To provide initial impetus for implementation, the Federal Ministry set up an inter-ministerial working group in which it has lead responsibility. In addition to further training for employees, the working group agreed on model projects that serve as examples of implementing the gender mainstreaming principle. Since 2003, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has been sponsoring a **Gender Competence Centre** (GenderKompetenzZentrum), an application-oriented research centre under the auspices of the Humboldt University in Berlin to support public administrations in gender equality policy.

The objective of the Federal Ministry is to ensure that men and women are equally able to do a job that provides for social security and safeguards their existence. It is about equal access to the labour market for men and women, be it as employees or self-employed. To this end, the quota of women in gainful employment needs to be raised to more than 60% by 2010 in line with the European requirements, and the principle of “equal pay for the same and/or equivalent jobs” has to be implemented – for instance, for baseline salaries for qualified young women or mothers who want to return to work.

Men and women, fathers and mothers alike must have the same career opportunities and equal access to executive positions in business, science and research. To this end, it is necessary to improve the overall conditions for trainees, students, newcomers and young people undergoing further education who have children.

The agreement between the Federal Government and the leading associations of German industry to promote equal opportunities for men and women in the private market is reviewed on a regular basis. The Federal Ministry uses the information portal **Career women** (Frauen machen Karriere, www.frauen-machenkarriere.de) on jobs, careers, business start-ups and self-employment to provide information about all work-related matters to women in gainful employment, women who start-up a business or self-employed women in all phases of their professional career, to provide support for them. Women with a migrant background can also find information specifically tailored to their needs on the portal.
The present generation of young women in Germany has a particularly good school education. Nevertheless, when it comes to selecting an apprenticeship or university course, a disproportionately high number of girls still choose typically female lines of work or subjects. This prevents them from fully exploiting their professional options; it is particularly the technical and engineering sectors that are experiencing a bottleneck in qualified young talents. The Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth sponsors a co-operation project with the Federal Ministry of Higher Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung), both sides of industry and partners from the political and business communities called Girls’ Day – Girls’ future day (Mädchen-Zukunftstag, www.girls-day.de) that gives female school pupils an insight into lines of work which girls often do not consider in the process of choosing a future career. The data base entitled Professional and academic orientation days for female secondary school students (Berufs- und Studienorientierungstage für Schülerinnen) with a national calendar of events at www.girls-day.de provides an overview of special events which try to attract girls to jobs in natural sciences, engineering, IT and the crafts even beyond the Girls’ Day.

Since early 2005, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has been sponsoring the national pilot project entitled New ways for boys (Neue Wege für Jungs). The pilot project encourages local initiatives for services that are oriented specifically towards the needs of boys who need guidance during the transitional stage between school graduation and career. For the first time, existing initiatives and projects for boys as from 5th grade for choosing a career and planning their future as well offerings for boys on the Girls’ Day are pooled and formalised, multipliers are supported and are able to benefit from a nation-wide network and dialogue. Youth-specific practical models are aimed at holistic support, that is, widening the spectrum of careers for boys, more flexible male role models and strengthening boys’ social competence. The newly established service point New Ways For Boys serves as a platform for exchange and networking between all active parties and is directed at teachers, social workers, career councillors, HR and training executives as well as parents. All information on this project can be found at www.neue-wege-fuer-jungs.de.

The national agency developed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in co-operation with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology called Nationwide Women’s Start-up Agency (bundesweite gründerinnenaagentur, bga – www.gruenderinnenagentur.de) is the first and only nationwide information and service centre on self-employment and business succession for women. The objective of the women’s start-up agency is to increase the proportion of business start-ups and take-overs by women and to improve the quality of start-ups.
Another priority of the Federal Ministry’s gender equality policy is women with a migrant background. In order to continue to reduce the number of terminated pregnancies, it is necessary to provide effective support to pregnant women and to offer optimum counselling and care, in particular to women in a pregnancy conflict. Preventive action to avoid and solve pregnancy conflicts is carried out by the Federal Ministry in co-operation with the Federal Centre for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung).

Combating violence against women is another priority of gender equality policies. This implies all forms of violence from domestic violence and forced marriages to trafficking in women, which prevent women from leading a normal life and which constitute severe violations of human rights. They are also a common feature in Germany’s day-to-day life and are particularly marked among migrants, elderly women and women with disabilities. The Federal Government’s first action plan for combating violence against women for the first time represented an overall concept that brought together all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

On 26 September 2007, the Federal Cabinet adopted the Second Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women. This Action Plan, which had been developed under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, comprises 130 measures of the Federal Government designed to improve the protection of women against violence. Action Plan II addresses those subjects which, in line with the conclusions from Action Plan I, require special measures: Protective measures for migrant women against violence are to be enforced and the special problems of disabled women affected by violence require increased attention. Representatives of the healthcare community, in particular male and female doctors, need to be mobilised for the support of female patients who have experienced violence. Practical and appropriate measures for prevention need to set in at an earlier stage, and need to be coordinated and implemented in an optimum way by facilities working to protect children, young people and women, as well as health care institutions.

Forced marriages constitute a severe violation of human rights, which the Federal Ministry intends to consistently prevent and fight. In doing so, it is necessary to make women and men aware of their rights, to strengthen their self-confidence so that they are able to defend themselves.

The anthology on **forced marriage in Germany** (BMFSFJ [Ed.]: Zwangsverheiratung in Deutschland, Nomos Verlag Baden-Baden 2007) presented by the Federal Ministry and the Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration on 10 September 2007 with its concept reviewed by the German Institute for Human Rights (Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte) for the first time represents a summary of scientific and practical expert knowledge on this subject in Germany. The anthology recommends numerous future-
oriented approaches. The Federal Ministry supports the struggle against forced marriages with targeted projects:

- **Online Counselling for Victims**

Since there has so far been a lack of suitable counselling and support measures for victimised migrants, both men and women, the Federal Ministry promotes a model project that aims at establishing an anonymous low-threshold online counselling service that is able to effectively reach out to victims. The Ministry has commissioned a crisis centre for young female migrants called “Papatya” in Berlin with the implementation of the project. The project period is three years (June 2007 to May 2010).

- **Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women**

The second action plan of the Federal Government to combat violence against women which was adopted by the Federal Cabinet in September 2007 puts an emphasis on fighting violence against women and girls with migration backgrounds and defines numerous measures to this end.

- **Strengthening the Role of Female Migrants**

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth sponsors several model projects designed to strengthen the role of female migrants: The project entitled **Women's Transcultural and Inter-Religious Learning House** (Transkulturelles und interreligiöses Lernhaus der Frauen) brings together women of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds in the cities of Cologne, Berlin and Frankfurt. The participants will be able to serve as multipliers and cultural mediators. The **Network.21** mentoring project guides female students with a migration background from secondary schools or universities at the beginning of their career in order to push these young women through successful integration into the labour market.

- **Evaluation of Practical Experience**

As from autumn 2007, a working group under the auspices of the Federal Ministry has been reviewing the application of Book III of the Social Code (Child and Youth Services Act) in cases of forced marriage. The objective is to identify gaps in the practical application of the Code and to propose solutions.

Gender equality policy has become a global concern in recent years. Germany is intensively involved in numerous international bodies of the EU, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. The European Year of Equal Opportunities For All in 2007 represented a special opportunity and challenge in the year of Germany's EU Presidency.
3. Child and Youth Policy – Child and Youth Services

Priorities of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in Child and Youth Policy

Children and young people are individual personalities with manifold talents. They have rights of their own and in many respects, they are experts in their own affairs. Strengthening the development of children’s individual personality and supporting them is central to all measures in the context of the Federal Government’s child and youth policy. The focus is on the different situations of children and young people and their individual needs.

In line with the Ministry’s priorities for action, the following three policy areas have been defined by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as complementary priorities to the 21 support areas laid down in the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation.

(Für ein kindergerechtes Deutschland)

The Federal Government developed the national action plan “For a Germany fit for Children 2005–2010” under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The National Action Plan (NAP) follows on from the United Nations Special General Assembly on Children held from 8 to 10 May 2002 in New York (2002 World Summit on Children). This conference adopted a final document entitled “A world fit for children” which is to contribute to improving the situation of children worldwide.

Like all signatories, Germany has committed to developing a National Action Plan with specific and measurable objectives and projects as well as their timing. The Action Plan translates to the national level the objectives that have been defined at international level.

The Federal Ministry wishes to implement the objectives of the action plan together with children, young people and all political and societal resources. The central elements of the plan are six fields for action which will become instrumental to more child orientation in future years:

- Equitable opportunities through education
- early and individual support
- overcoming the selective nature of the educational system and changing to a supportive system
- Growing up without violence
- Promoting non-violent education
- Studying the problem of “violence exercised through neglect of the child”
- Promoting a healthy life and healthy environmental conditions
- Preventing new risks to children’s health
- Strengthening holistic and inter-disciplinary health care support as well as child and youth-specific treatment
- Involvement of children and young people
- Developing quality standards for involvement
- Establishing children’s and participation rights in curricula, conditions for training and studying and in specific further training offered to relevant specialists
- Developing an adequate standard of living for all children
- Combating the root causes of child poverty
- Showing possible escapes from poverty-stricken lives
- International commitments
- Combating poverty and enforcing children’s rights in developing countries
- Further developing international conventions on the protection of children

The Child and Youth Report on the NAP gives children and young people an opportunity to formulate their ideas of a Germany fit for children, and what ideas for implementation and projects are already in place. This is an important contribution towards implementing and fine-tuning the NAP. By submitting the child and youth report to Cabinet on 28 June 2006, the Federal Government paid tribute to the children’s and young people’s commitment. The results of the report will be incorporated in the implementation of the NAP.

Expansion of Day-care Facilities for Children

High-quality child-care facilities are an essential part of our economic and social infrastructure. Customised offerings are indispensable to equal opportunities for men and women, the well-being of children, families and the community as well as a productive economy.

The fact that the Federal Government, the Länder and municipal authorities agreed to provide adequate child-care facilities for children under three by 2013 that meet the demand represents a major political success. The Federal Government has been instrumental in paving the way so that Länder and municipal authorities may now swiftly continue to build care facilities for children under three that meet the demand. By 2013, approximately one third of children under three will have a place in a day-care or nursing centre. This way, Germany will catch up with the countries of North and Western Europe whose family policies are particularly successful. These are historical steps towards early child support and an improved work/life balance.
In 2007, the Federal Government will set up a Special Federal Fund amounting to 2.15 billion Euro for investments in day-care facilities for children under three. As from 2008, the funds for new buildings, extensions, restructuring, redevelopment, refurbishment, modernisation and upgrades will be available to organisations and for children’s day-care. Additionally, as from 2009–2013, the Federal Government intends to make a fixed amount of 1.85 billion Euro in the first year and 770 million Euro in subsequent years available to the Länder for specific purposes by way of a VAT redistribution in order to reduce their overheads.

Combating Right-wing Extremism, Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia

Combating right-wing extremism is a responsibility for the whole of society that needs to be shared by all democratic forces. To this end, consistent contributions by politics and society are required, as well as a joint strategy to communicate democratic values and improve the infrastructure of a civil society.

Right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia are damaging to democracy and jeopardise the cohesion of society. Election results of right-wing extremist parties, figures from statistical crime data and reports on attacks by right-wing extremists demonstrate that these phenomena are not merely marginal problems in Germany. This is why the Federal Government has set itself the objective of strengthening democratic culture and civil commitment particularly among young people and of promoting tolerance and open-mindedness.

The primary objective is to fight the increasing popularity of right-wing extremist ideas by implementing targeted preventive strategies, which must focus on strengthening the civil society and communicating values such as tolerance and democracy in the context of education. The objective is to promote a responsible and committed civil society which is able to effectively counter right-wing extremist penetration. Moreover, we must not give up on young people who are already at a risk of flirting with right-wing extremism.

On 1 January 2007, the new programme “Diversity does a world of good. Young People Advocating Tolerance and Democracy – Fighting Right-Wing Extremism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism” (VIELFALT TUT GUT. Jugend für Vielfalt, Toleranz und Demokratie - gegen Rechtsextremismus, Fremdenfeindlichkeit und Antisemitismus) was launched by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The programme follows on from the Action Plan of the Federal Government on “Youth in favour of tolerance and democracy – against right-wing extremism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism”, which expired in 2006, and implements the recommendations of the scientific experts.
The new Federal long-term programme entitled “Diversity does a world of good. Young People Advocating Tolerance and Democracy – Fighting Right-Wing Extremism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism” continues the prevention strategies in a streamlined version (www.vielfalt-tut-gut.de). The new programme focuses on supporting local action plans under municipal responsibility and outstanding exemplary measures on the theme clusters of addressing historical and contemporary anti-Semitism, working with young people at a risk of showing right-wing tendencies, prevention and education for the immigrant society and early prevention.

In addition to the programme “VIELFALT TUT GUT.”, which emphasises prevention, another programme called “Competent. for democracy – counseling networks against right-wing extremism” (kompetent. für Demokratie – Beratungsnetzwerke gegen Rechtsextremismus) was launched on 1 July 2007. The focus of this programme is on case-by-case intervention against right-wing extremism. To this end, the Länder will be establishing regional counselling networks that make it possible to enable mobile intervention teams in situations of acute threat from right-wing extremist, xenophobic or anti-Semitic forces. These teams provide fast, and professional counselling in order for municipalities affected or victims on the ground to be able to cope with such a crisis.

The nation-wide coordination of “Competent for democracy – counseling networks against right-wing extremism” is entrusted to a central office at the Foundation for Democratic Youth (Stiftung Demokratische Jugend, www.beratungsnetzwerke.de).

On 29 June 2007, the Federal Government, the Länder and municipalities agreed on a joint concept against right-wing extremism. The coordinating group of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, their counterparts in the Eastern States of Germany and Berlin as well as the leading municipal associations against right-wing extremism established in November 2006 submitted specific proposals for implementation by the Federal Government, the Länder and municipalities. Consequently, in combating right-wing extremism, the areas of children and young people, prevention and repression by security organisations, strengthening the civil society and increasing political offerings by democratic institutions, as well as qualification of the political debate need, are to be increasingly synchronised to become part of an overall strategy.

Gender Mainstreaming in Child and Youth Services

The guidelines of the Child and Youth Plan, which became effective on 1 January 2007, define gender mainstreaming (GM) as a binding principle.

GM is a clear strategy in child and youth policies which naturally takes the concerns of women and girls, men and boys alike into account in the plan-
ning, implementation and evaluation of political measures. Moreover, it is to help change established patriarchal stereotypes, values and methods and the resultant gender roles.

This means developing, organising and evaluating decision-making processes and measures in such a way that the original circumstances and gender impacts are taken into account in every area and on each level to work towards genuine equality of men and women, boys and girls. This process is to become part of the standard pattern of every organisation involved in the decision-making processes and is sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

Child and Youth Plan of the Federation

The task of child and youth services is to promote the development of young people and support and supplement their education to become responsible and sociable personalities.

The central instrument for child and youth services at federal level is the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation under lead responsibility of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. In its capacity as the supreme competent authority, the Federal Ministry is to encourage and promote youth support to the extent that it has supra-regional importance and, due to its nature, cannot be effectively sponsored by a Land on its own (Art. 83 para. 1 of Book VIII of the Social Code). The Federal Ministry fulfils this mandate with the Federal Youth Plan, which was introduced in 1950 and renamed in 1994 to become the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation.

The guidelines of the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation of 19 December 2000 follow from established measures and emphasise new issues in youth policy by defining new objectives of political support such as strengthening media skills or development and opportunities for young people from social hot spots in the child and youth plan. Tasks of special importance such as equal rights and gender mainstreaming, the concerns of young people with disabilities, strengthening democratic values and behaviour, as well as promoting intercultural ideas, are defined as cross-sectional tasks in all programmes of the child and youth plan.

Pursuant to the guidelines of the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation, only central measures of child and youth services which have significance for the entire territory of the Federal Republic and which, due to their nature, cannot be effectively sponsored by a Land on its own are to be sponsored. A special federal interest in realising such measures is required.

For decades, the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation has provided a suitable framework for an efficient infrastructure of youth organisations, specialist child and youth service associations and social welfare organisations at federal
level, thus ensuring a high level of institutional and organised structures and practical child and youth services. In addition to that, temporary sponsoring of model and individual measures is designed to develop and test innovative and new approaches in the various sectors of child and youth services. The distribution of funds to the individual programmes is published annually in the context of the federal budget.

The most recent child and youth reports by the Federal Government addressed issues of the effectiveness and efficiency of youth support benefits to a greater extent. The “Materials and Quality Assurance in Child and Youth Services” (Materialien und Qualitätssicherung in der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, QA booklets) published by the Federal Ministry explored methods of evaluation to provide evidence of the effectiveness and improvement of support measures.

The federal model programme entitled “Qualification of educational aids through efficiency-oriented definition of benefits, compensation and quality development agreements pursuant to Art. 78a–g of Book VIII of the Social Code” (Qualifizierung der Hilfen zur Erziehung durch wirkungssorientierte Ausgestaltung der Leistungs-, Entgelt- und Qualitätsentwicklungsvereinbarungen nach §§ 78a–g SGB VIII), in short: efficiency-oriented youth services, which was initiated by the Federal Ministry and launched in January 2006, is designed to consistently align educational aids and benefits to their intended effect. The objective of the model programme is to develop targeted and effective aids for benefit recipients and effective and efficient provision of benefits through greater compatibility of educational mandate and business needs.

At eleven locations in Germany, the youth offices cooperate with institutions providing benefits; they are supported by external consultants to develop suitable instruments and processes that are incorporated into the benefits, compensation and quality development agreements pursuant to Art. 78a–g of Book VIII of the Social Code. The agreed models are then put to the practical test. The programme is coordinated by a central management and runs until the end of 2008.

The Child and Youth Plan of the Federation lists a total of 21 main service areas (see Graph 1). The following represents a selection of the most important focal points of the Ministry’s child and youth policy.

Promoting Participation of Children and Young People

Young people’s participation has a long tradition in the Federal Republic of Germany and has a sound legal basis. The relevant standards of the Child and Youth Service Act, of family law and of the requirements stipulated by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was also ratified by Germany, pro-
vide the framework for the manifold possibilities for participation of the young generation.

**Participation** forms part of a sustainable policy for young people in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Federal Government regards young people’s participation and involvement in decision-making processes as fundamental elements in society and politics, and a primary instrument to foster democratic beliefs. Therefore, the Federal Government’s youth policy encourages participation and social commitment; that is one of its top priorities.

The “participation scene” in Germany is extremely diverse and characterised by a wide range of participation possibilities which, at the level of cities, districts and municipalities, include representative participation such as children’s and young people’s parliaments, student representatives and open forms such as neighbourhood meetings, office hours and meetings of the municipal council with young people, youth forums, and project-related participation such as workshops for future careers, workshops and enabling interviews in specific planning and decision-making processes as well as local youth rings and associations.

These participatory forms of representation are supported by adults, in particular parents, and to be precise, child and youth commissioners. However, audits for child suitability also play an important role. In general, we attach great importance to the development level of participatory forms in our debate about the role model of a municipality fit for citizens and/or children.

Young people want to be involved in politics and society (participation). The most obvious form of political participation is elections. The legal age for voting or being elected in elections to the *Bundestag* or *Landtag* (Land Parliament) is 18 across all *Federal Länder*.

Young people get involved in projects, initiatives, associations and clubs, and they expect politics to deliver pragmatic solutions. Politics and society need to open up to the visions of children and young people. Political and administrative decision-making processes need to be designed in such a way that they address children’s concerns and translate them into social practice.

Children’s and young people’s involvement in their immediate environment through families, nurseries, schools, churches, clubs and municipalities in the sense of education in democracy is vital to society. The political importance of children’s and young people’s participation is growing constantly, particularly with a view to the effects of globalisation.*

To strengthen the importance of participation and try new forms of children’s and young people’s participation, the Federal Ministry adopted the **Action Programme for More Youth Participation** (Aktionsprogramm für mehr...

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* When we talk about involvement in German, this term is synonymous with the internationally used term participation; both are used as synonyms depending on the context.
Jugendbeteiligung) during the 16th legislative period. It is a joint initiative by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, bpb) and the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR) which is aimed at young people between six and 24. Topics and target groups of choice include “The importance of the young generation in society”, “Children and adolescents from underprivileged families”, “Children and young people with a migration background”, “Demographic change” and “Multi-generational equilibrium”.

The Action Programme for More Youth Participation sponsors manifold individual modules (projects) under the slogan “Only those who take action will make a difference”; examples include the tried and tested series of DBJR projects Come in Contract (www.dbjr.de). In the course of these projects, young people are to negotiate agreements with decision-makers based on their needs, and subsequently implement these agreements. Special good-idea competitions of the Federal Agency for Civic Education are designed to reach out to young people outside the educational system or from underprivileged backgrounds.

The implementation phase of the new Action Programme for More Youth Participation started in late 2006 to improve children’s and young people’s participation. The 2008 festival/summer camp in Berlin will be one of the highlights; it will bring together more than 10,000 children and young people (www.bpb.de). Information on all activities in the framework of the action programme can be found on the Website www.du-machst.de which also serves as a communication platform for all parties involved.

Promoting Civic Commitment – Voluntary Services

Participation is experienced in the context of civic commitment. It contributes to learning democratic behaviour – even though it takes place in an allegedly apolitical context of leisure activities or immediate social care. Civic commitment provides many opportunities for learning and for new experiences.

Civic commitment is used as a generic term for various types of engagement in society which include: Elected or nominated honorary posts, voluntary commitment (e.g. in care, sports, youth and cultural projects) and involvement in citizens’ initiatives, in committees, executive boards of associations/organisations and in politics.

There is a long and strong tradition of civic commitment in many areas: Youth or women’s support, senior citizens or family affairs, sports, culture, education, health care, environmental protection, fire brigades, emergency services or consumer protection, etc.

This is matched by an equally long tradition in sponsoring this kind of commitment by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women
and Youth. Co-operation with the relevant support organisations has been and still is characterised by the subsidiarity principle on the basis of partnership.

**Voluntary services** represent a special form of civic commitment. Women and men commit to providing help in welfare institutions for a certain period of time.

Voluntary services are of special importance particularly to young people. On the one hand, they provide a learning experience of civic engagement because many volunteers stay on even after completing their time of military substitute service. On the other hand, they provide opportunities of informal education by giving vocational orientation and work experience; they also contribute to obtaining personal and social skills. These are key competencies for which there is considerable demand on the job market. Voluntary commitment therefore boosts personal, social and professional education, creates scope for learning and gaining experience, and thus contributes to better quality of life in general.

The statutory voluntary services of a **Voluntary Social Service Year** (Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr, FSJ) or **Voluntary Ecological Service Year** (Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr, FÖJ) are aimed at young people up to 26. Their concept is of an educational nature. Both volunteer options may last up to an entire year of full-time service. Participants, both young men and women, receive statutory social security like an ordinary apprentice, that is, they contribute to statutory health insurance, nursing, pension, unemployment and accident insurance. During the alternative civilian service, they may be deployed in classical social institutions, e.g. for elderly people in need of nursing care or disabled people as well as sports, culture or preservation of historic buildings or monuments.

The fields of application are currently being extended. In future, a voluntary social service year can also be served in multi-generational centres, childcare facilities as well as schools, self-help groups and helping underprivileged individuals or migrants. A voluntary ecological service year can be served with nature conservation and environmental protection organisations. Voluntary social service and ecological service years can also be served abroad. Since 2002, recognised conscientious objectors have also been able to serve a voluntary social service or ecological service year instead of alternative civilian service.

The draft bill for the promotion of youth voluntary service is a proposal by the Federal Government to enlarge the legal framework for such alternative civilian service. The main objective is to strengthen their educational character. The voluntary social or ecological year will be renamed to voluntary social service and voluntary environmental service respectively. Moreover, it will be possible to participate in a combined voluntary service in Germany and abroad in future. Upon completion of parliamentary consultations, its entry into force is envisaged for 2008.
The brochure “For myself and for others. Voluntary social service year – Voluntary ecological service year” (Für mich und für andere. Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr – Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr), which is available at www.bmfsfj.de, contains further information.

Aside from a voluntary social or ecological year, it is also possible to participate in the Other Service Abroad (Anderer Dienst im Ausland) in line with Art. 14b of the Alternative Civilian Service Act instead of alternative civilian service. This kind of service is two months longer than alternative civilian service and must be commenced upon completion of the 23rd year. Please find information at www.zivildienst.de.

Since its establishment in 1996, the European Voluntary Service (EVS) – which has been incorporated into the new EU programme Youth in Action (JUGEND IN AKTION) since 2007 – has increasingly met with young people’s interest and has become an important element of European youth policy. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has established a national YOUTH for Europe agency in Bonn for EVS implementation during the period 2007-2013. Information on the European Voluntary Service may be obtained at www.jugendfuereuropa.de.

The programme entitled Intergenerational Voluntary Services (Generationsübergreifende Freiwilligendienste) 2005 to 2008 is designed to test the new voluntary services for all generations. People of every age may participate.

In contrast to the FSJ/FÖJ, this type of service does not necessarily have to be a full-time job, though a minimum number of hours has to be served each week. In other words, this type of service may be provided in parallel with a job, apprenticeship or university course. Moreover, the programme is addressed to people who happen to have extra time in their current situation which they want to make available to serve a meaningful purpose. The areas of service are similar to those of the voluntary social year. The programme is also complemented by scientific research. Once evaluation results are available, the Federal Government will decide on its continuation.


The new world-bound (weltwärts) voluntary service was launched by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, BMZ) in 2008. Young people between 18 and 28, including those from low-income backgrounds, are to be able to show commitment by providing aid in developing countries. The Ministry plans to establish 10,000 places by 2010. Young people’s voluntary commitment in developing countries strengthens the civil structures partner country societies, and represents an important contribution towards
the development of these countries. Information on the Ministry’s voluntary service can be found at www.weltwaerts.de.

Child and Youth Work – Work of Youth Organisations

In line with the Child and Youth Services Act, as laid down in Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII), the services provided by child and youth work for young people up to 26 are to be oriented towards the interests of young people who must be involved in their development and adoption; these services are to teach young people self-determination and social responsibility, and to encourage and introduce them to social commitment.

Book VIII of the Social Code explicitly emphasises the mandatory character of supporting youth work, considering open youth work and work in youth organisations as a single whole. The promotion of the work of youth organisations and groups is compatible with their respective articles of association. This is where young people organise and specify youth work themselves and accept responsibility for it.

The importance of youth organisations for promoting political and civil commitment is always emphasised by the Federal Government, both at national and European level.

Youth work is offered by associations, youth groups and initiatives, other youth work institutions and the organisations of public youth support. Book VIII of the Social Code makes reference to the following priorities of youth work – extracurricular youth education with general, political, social, health, cultural, natural history and technical education, youth work in sports games and team spirit, work, school and family-related youth work, international youth work, child and youth recreation and youth counselling.

The most well-known types of child and youth work are open houses, public organisations and youth associations as value-oriented communities; as independent welfare providers, they have the offerings and the facilities.

Child and youth work is a central, educational, publicly organised and community-based field of socialisation in a modern society. In contrast to other fields of activity in child and youth services and other educational sectors, it gives children and young people the opportunity to organise learning and activities for themselves. This is where children and young people are able to try out and experience active participation in society; and they are given an opportunity to shape their environment and future themselves.

The contents and methods of youth work should be consistently aligned with children’s and young people’s realities and ideas. In view of the increasing complexity in young people’s lives and the resultant uncertainty about their place in society and their personal future, youth work that is oriented towards their realities and needs become extremely important. It must be aimed at
helping children and young people to cope with their daily lives and develop their individual future perspectives.

The basic principles of youth organisations as unions of children and young people include the substantial and methodical principles outlined earlier and in particular their volunteer nature and shared values as well as their claim of being a true representation of children’s and young people’s interests.

By providing experience in and addressing ambivalences between solidarity and individuality, offering and infrastructure and facilitating independent organisation, informal community and formal organisation, youth organisations give room to experiencing how to shape and implement democracy. They may convey important experience on how to apply democratic instruments, decision-making and negotiating processes.

Over more than five decades, the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation has created suitable overall conditions for the nationwide youth organisations which ensure their funding on a sustained and sustainable basis.

In the context of fine-tuning the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation as a support tool, a model trial was launched in 2004 to test additional measures designed to cut red tape and increase flexibility for sponsoring of national organisations. As part of this model trial, framework agreements were concluded with seven national youth work organisations. Their purpose is to explore opportunities for a more focused, flexible and efficient utilisation of funds by adding up all subsidies for various (standard) programmes, giving youth work organisations more leverage on how to appropriate these funds, and by facilitating the decision-making process for application. Experience to date has been positive for all parties involved, but final results can only be expected once the model trial is completed in late 2007.

### Extracurricular Political Youth Education

Book VIII of the Social Code specifies extra-curricular civic youth education as part of youth work. It has a long tradition in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany, and has become a separate institutionalised and professionalised learning field with its theoretical foundation, paradigm shifts, legal regulations and manifold subjects, learning formats and methods.

The contents of the programme for civic education in the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation focus on the following points:

- Teach young people about the state and society, European and international politics including the most important development in culture, industry, technology and science,
- Give young people a sense of judgement for social and political processes and conflicts,
Empower young people to assert their rights and obligations towards their fellow human beings, society and the environment, and encourage them to get involved in shaping a free and democratic society and state.

The manifold activities of the organisations for civic youth education sponsored by the Federal Ministry are aimed at fostering a democratic awareness and skills of participation and co-determination, and to encourage young people to get involved in the democratic processes in our society. This implies social learning and informed political socialisation. Current political, social and economic problems are addressed as well as issues of future plans in different social contexts; values, standards and overall conditions are challenged. Organisations of civic youth education thus make a valuable contribution to providing key skills such as advocating tolerance, participation and social commitment, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility, as well as non-violent conflict resolution to young people.

Independent organisations such as youth associations, education centres, welfare institutes, academies and political youth organisations and public organisations such as the Federal Centre for Civic Education and the Land Centres for Civic Education, state-run education centres, adult education centres and youth welfare departments are providers of extra-curricular political youth education. Measures to promote knowledge about society and the state, and to teach about ways of participation and political representation have priority.

The measures of civic youth education cover a wide range of current social and political affairs and are derived from the experience and context of young people.

Participation in the offerings provided by institutions is voluntary. Institutional measures of extra-curricular civic youth education such as seminars, conferences, workshops, projects, etc., are generally carried out by certified teachers and civic education lecturers, both men and women.

**Extracurricular Cultural Youth Education**

Section 11 subs. 3 of the Child and Youth Services Act refers to cultural education as a priority of youth work, which underlines the federal responsibility for this sector. The Child and Youth Plan of the Federation has ensured basic funding of 30 specialist organisations and umbrella associations in the fields of media, literature, music, games, theatre, dance, applied arts and further education.

The work of the national associations and organisations is of special national interest. By developing concepts and realising model projects, research projects, competitions, federal events, international measures and further education schemes, they perform the Federal Government’s function of providing encouragement and a framework, ensure further development of cultural education,
address important issues on top of the youth policy agenda and promote the cultural involvement of children and young people in municipal processes through counselling, information and documentation.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as created a new option for more cultural involvement of young people called Voluntary Cultural Service Year (Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr Kultur), which has already become a success. It is a special form of social engagement in cultural institutions such as philharmonic concert halls, theatres, local radios, socio-cultural centres and music schools.

Moreover, the Federal Ministry is testing a model for voluntary cultural service open to all generations in co-operation with the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung, BKJ). The objective is to establish future-oriented, flexible formats of voluntary commitment in Germany's cultural scene.

Cultural diversity is created by artistic and cultural expressions of people with different regional or national, religious and in particular artistic and aesthetic views. It is based on fundamental values derived from basic constitutional rights which also serve as a framework for artistic freedom. Understanding these common fundamental values is the prerequisite for a broad adoption, acceptance and/or tolerance of all services and benefits which are summarised under the term cultural diversity.

Cultural diversity can only flourish in a social framework that is characterised by tolerance and is free from xenophobia. It is one of the main concerns of the Federal Ministry to defend and extend these prerequisites. The physical experience of and motivated and active participation in cultural events is a playful way of introducing children and young people to these fundamental values.

Youth Work in Sports

The number of children and young people who are members of sports clubs is much higher than their level of organisation in any other sector of leisure activity or political commitment. The sports organisations regard their offerings for children and young people as youth work in the sense of an educational task of child and youth services.

Some 90,000 sports clubs throughout Germany provide a wide range of options which is unmatched due to their local connection and orientation towards specific target groups. Nevertheless, the full potential of sports, particularly when it comes to addressing social problems – education, integration of young people with a migrant background, promoting good health, etc. – has not yet been fully exploited. In this context, further intensive training is necessary to improve the qualifications of staff involved and the quality of their offerings.
Voluntary and/or honorary service is one of the fundamental pillars of Germany’s sport system. More than every tenth German over 14 is a volunteer in the field of sports and physical exercise. More than 90% of these volunteers support a sports club. There is no other sector of our society that can fall back on such a large number of volunteers.

The Federal Ministry attempts to improve the prerequisites for such voluntary commitment to facilitate access and increase the number of trainers and coaches, both men and women, working in youth sports.

The two Federal sports competitions at schools “YOUTH TRAINS FOR THE OLYMPICS” (JUGEND TRAINIERT FÜR OLYMPIA) and “Federal Youth Games” (Bundesjugendspiele) are the centre of extracurricular sports activities at schools; they have the highest number of participants and their concept is unique in Europe. Both youth contests are modern and are popular with boys and girls, as well as with their PE teachers.

The Federal Youth Games (www.bundesjugendspiele.de) not only provide athletic challenges to children and young people, but are also intended to motivate them to do sports in the long term. Physical exercise plays an educational role in the sense of a holistic education. The effects of physical and motor exercise on young people’s psychosocial and cognitive skills is clear and beyond doubt.

The Child and Youth Plan of the Federation serves as a monitoring instrument which the Federal Government has used for years to sponsor German Sports Youth of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund – DOSB) with sizeable funds which have not ceased. Subsidies are allocated to the field office, within the framework of a funding agreement, and the member organisations as specified by a framework agreement. The special funding mechanisms are characterised by lean administration processes and more flexible allocation of funds, which has proven to be the optimum solution for both partners.

Moreover, individual topical projects of German Sports Youth are sponsored on a permanent basis or temporarily. The organisation’s international activities in the field of youth exchanges are a strong and successful field of operation that the Federal Government is keen to fund. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is well aware of the importance of German Sports Youth: With more than 9 million members, it is the biggest youth organisation in Germany. The small youth sport organisations play an equally important role.

In more recent years, central issues have become apparent particularly in sports as a means of child and youth services: Social integration, promotion of tolerance and the fight against all forms of extremism and violence, as well as physical exercise as preventative health care.
Aside from funding youth support structures in the sports sector, which the Federal Ministry regards as an important task, the Ministry also draws attention to innovative individual projects that increasingly use the medium of sports, which is popular with young people, as a means of preventive health care or an integration tool for children and young people with a migrant background. At the same time, youth voluntary services are being extended in sport. German participants in the Paralympic Games are regularly sponsored as part of the funding of special international activities.

Articles 149 and 150 of the EU Treaty define the activities carried out by the European Communities in co-operation with Member States in the fields of general education and vocational training as well as youth and sports.

The new EU Reform Treaty underlines the importance of youth work in the context of sports by defining a new Union competence. By mentioning sports as a field of action in the heading of Article 149 “Education, vocational training, youth and sport”, the Article reads “The [European] Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of the specific nature of sport, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function.” Moreover, the Union is to contribute to “developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions and coope-ration between bodies responsible for sports, and by protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially the youngest sportsmen and sports women.”

**Promoting Youth Social Work**

Youth social work refers to all measures, organisations, services and events for young people that support them in finding their place as recognised, active and responsible members of society. Most of the activities focus on work-related support for young people; counselling and measures oriented towards social education are designed to compensate for underprivileged backgrounds or individual limitations.

Moreover, youth social work supports and sponsors young people in their school and professional careers, their integration into the labour market and society as well as their career development. Youth social work develops and delivers services, measures and aids of social education and career counselling that are oriented towards individual and historical/social demands of young people. This type of policy focuses on the young people’ individual situations, and attempts to promote underprivileged young people on the basis of their individual needs, thus ensuring a climate of support and empowerment at the same time.
Youth social work comprises and combines different kinds of benefits. It is part of child and youth services and, as such, enshrined in Book VIII of the Social Code, the Child and Youth Services Act, section 13. Moreover, other legal codes and standards also make reference to youth social work; they are the source of funding for a large part of youth social work activities, while the latter sector has also provided input to the substance and development of these codes and regulations, and seeks to continue to provide input on behalf and in the interest of its target group. These codes and standards are the Employment Promotion Act (Arbeitsförderungsgesetz (Social Code, Book III)), the legal provisions on the integration of ethnic Germans and foreigners, and the Federal Social Assistance Act (Bundessozialhilfegesetz, BSHG). Youth social work serves as an advocate for young people. Consequently, it is obliged to claim the relevant prerequisites and benefits from the government and from society.

Integration in Society and at Work

Despite a positive economic development in 2007, a large number of young people still do not see a future perspective for themselves on the labour and apprenticeship market. Approximately 8% of boys and girls leave school without a diploma every year; in 2006, 75,976 young people dropped out of secondary modern school (Hauptschule) alone. Almost 15% of young people between 20 and 29 do not complete vocational training, among young people with a migration background, it is as high as 37%. 35% of young people who finish their apprenticeship become unemployed, while it is more than 60% among those who have not completed their vocational training. An absence of school diploma or vocational qualifications is the primary cause of youth unemployment.

Chances for a future require new forms of co-operation. The Federal Ministry’s model programme is based on flexible networks, alliances and resource pools. Creative solutions can only be found through strategic co-operation between existing organisations, services and offerings on the ground, in particular co-operation with employment promotion services and organisations of youth social work, and through initiative by the parties concerned.

The Federal Government’s model programme entitled “Truancy – The Second Chance” (Schulverweigerung – Die 2. Chance) by the Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is intended to encourage young people to return to school and finish their schooling successfully, thus receiving a second chance; the programme has been implemented in co-operation with voluntary organisations, youth offices and schools since September 2006.

Local projects with designated contacts in 784 locations see to it that some 1,500 male and female students, particularly from secondary schools, who are repeat truants and have stayed away from school for longer periods are reintegr - kuj - englisch - seiten001-800.indb 144 05.08.2008 19:32:47
grated into schools. Case managers act as permanent counsellors on site who see to it that young people attend school regularly. They agree personal reintegration plans with the students and monitor success, take parents and schools on board and provide support that is tailored to the young person's individual situation.

The model programme entitled Competence Agencies (Kompetenzzentren) is also aimed at improving through targeted action in particular the integration of underprivileged young people into working life who, during their transition from school to work, do not make use of the support offered by the current system.

Special case managers agree a customised individual support and qualification plan with young people, and monitor its implementation. They accompany and support the young people in the long term, consider the young people’s personal and family environment, organise a tailor-made sequence of support measures for his/her individual situation from different areas, and they help to improve the local and regional support measures for underprivileged young people.

The first 144 Competence Agencies started work in December 2006; so far, they have reached out to almost 12,000 young people; 7,500 particularly underprivileged young people were accepted for case management. The number of Competence Agencies will be raised to almost 200 by 2007.

The programme “LOS – Local Capital for Social Purposes” (LOS- Lokales Kapital für soziale Zwecke, www.los-online.de) takes the same direction. Based on local action plans, the programme sponsors micro projects and small local initiatives that support the professional and social integration of people with a particular disadvantage on the labour market, in particular underprivileged young people or young people with a migration background. These plans are aimed at improving employability, teaching skills to be used in a future career and enhancing social cohesion on the ground.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth makes available funds from the European Social Fund for its programmes “Truancy – the Second Chance”, “Competence Agencies” and “LOS – Local capital for social purposes”. The subsidies will also be paid during the 2007–2013 period of the ESF.

The Action Programme for Multi-Generational Centres (Aktionsprogramm Mehrgenerationenhäuser) aims to strengthen the social and economic competence of generations. Multi-generational centres combine civic commitment, self-help and professional support into a comprehensive package by and for everyone, regardless of his/her age. They are active and activating centres for all four age brackets (children, adults, seniors and very old people) and contribute to a better work/life balance. They become service hubs and thus contribute to establishing a local market for family support and multi-genera-
tional services in the regions. This also includes services and benefits by public youth service organisations and, if required, by schools.

In the framework of an action programme, the Federal Ministry supports the establishment of more than 500 multi-generational centres in counties and in cities that are not part of a county (www.mehrgenerationenhaeuser.de).

375 **youth migration services** (Jugendmigrationsdienste, JMD) across the nation contribute to the social and professional integration of young people with a migration background (www.jugendmigrationsdienst.de); they advise and guide young migrants, both men and women, between 12 and 27 during the transition from school to work. Aside from networking their activities, the youth migration services focus on developing individual integration plans. This helps young people with a migrant background to gain a foothold in the job market, and it takes into account their individual skills and interests.

Aside from individual integration plans on the basis of case management, they also offer additional events for groups and forward clients to other services and organisations. This requires close co-operation with all individuals and institutions involved in integration (e.g. language schools, counselling centres for migrants, competence agencies and many others). Co-operation with organisations in the context of Book II and/or Book III of the Social Code is particularly important.

Moreover, model projects with young volunteers who have already been successfully integrated will be conducted at ten youth migration service locations by summer 2008. These will explore to what extent young newcomers help themselves during initial integration and acquire skills that might be useful for training and on the job.

The Federal Ministry attaches great importance to the involvement of migrants’ parents in the planning of training and the future career of these young people. Since early 2007, the Federal Ministry has been sponsoring the model programme entitled “Training-Oriented Work with Parents” (Ausbildungsorientierte Elternarbeit) at twelve selected locations. The aim of this model project is to explore and highlight how parents’ educational skills can be effectively enhanced beyond work done to date, thus supporting children’s and young people’s integration at school and at work.

The work of the youth migration services is complemented at the national level at many locations through youth-specific welfare integration projects that are also funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and implemented by the Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees.

The Federal Ministry sponsors in particular two schemes that recognise and promote the potential of young women and girls with a migration background:
THE FEDERAL LEVEL

- “Intercultural Competence as an Asset in the Career Orientation of Young Females with a Migrant Background” (Interkulturelle Kompetenz als Ressource für Berufswahlorientierung von jungen Frauen und Mädchen mit Migrationshintergrund). Intercultural competence as part of a qualification profile for career choices and the integration of girls/women into the labour market are being tested in a model project which brings together regional stakeholders in Cologne and Dresden (schools, county school authorities, job centres, relevant companies, chambers and specialised social welfare organisations). In the fields of gender and ethnic origins, they develop innovative examples, processes and tools for improved counselling and efficient integration of young women with a migration background into the labour market.

- “Living and Working in a Transcultural Society/Mentoring for Young Male and Female Migrants with Scientific Support” (Leben und Arbeiten in der transkulturellen Gesellschaft/Mentoring für junge Migrantinnen und Migranten mit wissenschaftlicher Beratung). The project reaches out in particular to young women with a migrant background during the critical transitional phase from school to university or a job and/or apprenticeship and from university to first job. The aim of the project is to support young women in order for them to be successful at work in a transcultural society and take on social responsibility. Moreover, the project aims at enlarging women’s skills and experience in career choice and job market orientation, their general vocational qualifications (key skills) and their skills in social and intercultural sectors, as well as strengthening their social commitment.

The project also aims to build networks. On an individual level, mentoring tandems are designed to combine educational orientation, professional success and social commitment so that gender-based differences and cultural diversity are perceived as a potential. Another objective is to inform the public about the purposes of the project and make people more sensitive to this subject.

The European Youth Pact and the European Pact for Gender Equality – both launched by the EU Heads of State and Government in the context of the Lisbon strategy – have a positive effect on these programmes.

Protection of Children’s and Young People’s Rights
(Preventive) Protection of Children and Young People

The best way of protecting victims is to take precautions against and prevent crime. Crime prevention is therefore recognised as a necessary task, numerous projects and programmes have been and are being initiated, new approaches are being explored, and co-operation between child and youth service organ-
isations, the police and the judiciary has been intensified with a view to threats to children and young people.

The Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Services (Gesetz zur Weiterentwicklung der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, KICK), which entered into force on 1 October 2005, enhanced the protection of children and young people in the field of child and youth services pursuant to Book VIII of the Social Code. The legislature specified and clearly defined the protective role of child and youth service organisations in case of a risk to a child’s well-being in the newly formulated section 8a of Book VIII of the Social Code. Stricter requirements for personal qualifications of persons working in child and youth service organisations as set out in section 72a of Book VIII of the Social Code considerably improved preventive protection of children and young people in this sector.

In this context, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth sponsored the development of a manual entitled “Threat to a Child’s Well-being Pursuant to section 1666 of the Civil Code and General Social Service” (Kindeswohlgefährdung nach § 1666 BGB und Allgemeiner Sozialer Dienst, ASD) that serves as a reference and support to specialists who address issues related to threats to children's well-being pursuant to section 1666 of the Civil Code. For this purpose, research findings available had to be reprocessed.

The manual focuses on specific recommendations for assessing situations and being able to take action with greater certainty. Renowned experts, both men and women, address some 130 frequently asked questions on more than 800 pages. The manual represents a supplement – more recent information on developments in this sector are addressed and published at regular intervals at www.dji.de/asd.

Moreover, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth continued to sponsor the federal model programme entitled Further Development of the Services Planning Process (Fortentwicklung des Hilfeplanverfahrens) which four institutes have been implementing since 2002 under the auspices of a department of the German Youth Institute. It developed recommendations, ideas and materials on how to efficiently plan and implement services. During its implementation, several expert opinions were prepared on the following priority areas: Service planning in an interdisciplinary context, service planning and software application, service planning and the gender issue, service planning from an intercultural perspective, service planning in a European comparison. These expert opinions have been published on a CD which can be obtained from the German Youth Institute.

The national prevention campaign Look.Act.Help (Hinsehen. Handeln. Helfen) launched by the Federal Ministry in 2004 attracted considerable attention and contributed to greater awareness and education on the problem of sexual abuse of children. The website designed in this context at www.hinsehen-
handeln-helfen.de contains important information on prevention possibilities to protect children, and a user-friendly data base with details on counselling centres all over Germany listing them by proximity.

Another preventive support measure of the Federal Ministry directly addresses children and young people. The helpline “No Worries Number” (Nummer gegen Kummer) on the national toll-free number 0800–1110333 has established a national network of 96 regional sections which enables children and young people to make anonymous calls on any subject and receive counselling.

By providing seed financing, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth helped establish central counselling for young people and parents on the Internet which is sponsored by the Federal Conference for Educational Counselling Services and Child Guidance (Bundeskonferenz für Erziehungsberatung) as a virtual counselling centre. This central Internet platform complements the existing structure of family and education counselling and provides counselling to young people in crises and strengthens the educational role of the family by using the new means of communication available through the Internet. The forum www.bke-elternberatung.de addresses parents in need of support on matters of education of their children who suffer from problems. At www.bke-jugendberatung.de, young people and adolescents may receive qualified counselling on problems they have with themselves, parents, friends, at school or with romance.

The Federal Ministry’s action programme entitled “Early Assistance for Parents and Children and Social Early Warning Systems” (Frühe Hilfen für Eltern und Kinder und soziale Frühwarnsysteme) makes an important contribution towards improved protection of children and their parents. The focus is explicitly on children up to three as a target group whose families are in a difficult situation. In order to bring about changes in their situation, the measures of child and youth services are systematically linked to the structures of our health care system.

Certain regions in Germany are already implementing projects and models that support parents through child care to protect these children against abuse and neglect. Based on this valuable experience, many regions are building a network of early assistance measures with funding from the Land or municipalities. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is promoting more of this kind of targeted model project in all the Länder.

The multiprofessional National Centre for Early Assistance (Nationales Zentrum Frühe Hilfen, www.fruehehilfen.de) which is jointly funded by the Federal Centre for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung, BZgA) and the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut, DJI) started its work in April 2007. The centre is in charge of the projects sponsored in the context of the programme and serves as a hub that provides all
relevant information on early assistance. All regions are able to profit from the establishment of early warning systems.

The Federal Ministry sponsors the Information Centre Child Abuse and Neglect (Informationszentrum Kindesmisshandlung/Kindesvernachlässigung, IzKK) under the auspices of the German Youth Institute as a national interface for interdisciplinary networking and information processing between research, practice and politics. The objective of the institute is to pool specialist information on the emergence, prevention, therapy and intervention in cases of violence against children, analyse this information and foster closer cooperation between the different lines of work. Its offerings include a comprehensive data base on specialist literature, reference to research projects and practical developments as well as a calendar of events and training courses on the subject.

In line with the Ministry’s encouraging role, it sponsors a number of models that promote crime prevention among children and young people:

- The various measures and initiatives in the context of the project Neighbourhood-Centered Prevention of Violence and Crime (Kiezorientierte Gewalt- und Kriminalitätsprävention) which is implemented and scientifically supported by Camino, Werkstatt für Fortbildung, Praxisbegleitung und Forschung in Berlin (www.camino-werkstatt.de) addressed children, young people and adolescents in city neighbourhoods. Instead of creating new institutions, the project pooled existing resources. It was based on people’s enhanced identification with their surroundings that helped develop more effective social controls and preventive effects in the fields of violence and crime.

- The youth support model programme AIB – Mobile Intensive Support (AIB – Ambulante Intensive Begleitung) carried out by the Institute for Social Practice of the Rauhes Haus in Hamburg (ISP) with scientific support from the German Youth Institute reaches out to children and young people at risk due to difficult circumstances or acute crises. A pragmatically oriented (re)integration fostered by individual (manpower-)intensive outpatient care for a period of three months gave young people an opportunity to integrate into a stable social environment (www.soziale-praxis.de).

- The model project entitled “We’ll take care of it ourselves” (Wir kümmern uns selbst, www.wir-kuemmern-uns-selbst.de), which is conducted by the Institute for Development Planning and Structural Research (Institut für Entwicklungsplanung und Strukturforschung GmbH - IES) with scientific support by the German Youth Institute, aims at promoting non-professional skills of conflict resolution on the ground, so that “normal” conflicts do not escalate for children and young people in their social environment. The project is intended to prevent police or judiciary involvement at a time when they are
not really necessary. It is to avoid inappropriately criminalising young people and to foster neighbourhood conflict resolution.

The Federal Ministry sponsors in particular projects that enhance existing resources and networks and which do not limit their efforts to mitigating the “nuisance-making” traits of children and young people. This helps to prevent children and young people from flirting with crime.

Moreover, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth promotes quality development and assurance through evaluations, e.g. in an evaluation network (visit www.dji.de/jugendkriminalitaet) or in mediation and/or conflict resolution (visit www.evaluation-schulmediation.de, www.kik-projekt.de), which is designed to enhance prevention strategies and promote the specialist debate and practice.

The Centre for Juvenile Crime Prevention (Arbeitsstelle Kinder und Jugendschutz) under the auspices of the German Youth Institute (www.dji.de/jugendkriminalitaet) which is sponsored by the Federal Ministry plays a particularly important role in crime prevention among children and young people. It provides information on concepts, strategies for corrective action and working methods in crime prevention from other countries to practitioners, politicians, researchers and providers of further education and training. It promotes and develops tried and tested as much as innovative approaches to crime prevention, defines quality standards and supports co-operation.

The Centre supports approaches that are tailored to specific target groups, e.g. underage children or boys, and has considerable experience with so-called repeat or intensive offenders (monster kids). The Centre’s efforts focused not so much on the “negative” personality, but on the accompanying processes in institutions and organisations.

The Centre for Juvenile Crime Prevention recently published an extensive report on crime prevention strategies for children and young people. Following the 1990 expert opinion of the Federal Government’s Anti-Violence Commission, this extensive report illustrates the changes and developments which have occurred in the field of preventing violence by and to children and young people over a period of almost 20 years. The report focuses on the most important places of socialisation and the institutions responsible in cases of crime such as families, day-care centres for children, extra-curricular youth support measures, schools, police and the judiciary. The report highlights political and professional challenges in a future-oriented format, and calls upon those responsible in the various practical sectors to consistently continue on the path on which they have embarked (http://cgi.dji.de/bibs/_Band11_Gewaltpraevention.pdf).

Governments need to see to it that children and young people are protected from dangers and negative influences in the public or media, and to make them fit for a life in a complex world. Child and youth services must foster and
contribute to young people’s development and education so that they become responsible and sociable personalities. In the context of educational child and youth services (section 14 of Book VIII of the Social Code), there should be special campaigns for young people and legal guardians that teach them how to protect themselves from dangerous influences.

The Federal Government’s Youth Protection Act (Jugendschutzgesetz – JuSchG) and the State Treaty on the Protection of Youth from Harmful Media of the Länder (Jugendmedienschutz-Staatsvertrag der Länder) which both entered into force on 1 April 2003 were designed to improve protection of children and young people when using new media.

Both the Federal Government and the Länder agreed on an external evaluation of the Youth Protection Act and the State Treaty on the Protection of Youth from Harmful Media – results have been available since late October 2007, and first results on computer games since June 2007.

In February 2007, the Federal Ministry and the Youth Ministry of Northrhine-Westphalia launched an emergency programme on effective protection of children and young people from violent computer games which is based on four pillars:
1. A tightened up Youth Protection Act,
2. Improving the enforcement of the Act,
3. Quality assurance of youth protection decisions,
4. Proactive communication and information policies.

The measures defined in the emergency programme under Pillars 3 and 4 were immediately addressed by the Länder and are being implemented swiftly.

In November 2007, the Federal Ministry convened a round table on “The Act on the Protection of Children and Young People – improving its enforcement” (Jugendschutzgesetz – Verbesserung des gesetzlichen Vollzugs) which aimed at establishing the overall conditions which are required for effective enforcement by the responsible supervisory authorities.

Still, child and youth protection is not limited to laws and their enforcement. Promoting projects of independent organisations of child and youth services also contributes towards the effective protection of children and young people; these include in particular the Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz, BAJ) and the German Society for the Protection of Children (Deutscher Kinderschutzbund, DKSB).

Laws for the protection of children and young people need to be drafted through permanent contact with other Federal Ministries, in particular the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry of the Interior as well as the Federal Ministries for Economic Affairs and Labour since the protection of children and young people has to be harmonised across departments. More-
over, close contact with the authorities responsible for implementing the youth protection laws in the Länder is necessary to ensure an exchange of information and harmonised implementation of and compliance with regulations.

Another priority is the promotion of children’s and young people’s media competence, which aside from the laws, regulations and measures of voluntary self-regulation, is an important prerequisite for ensuring the effectiveness of youth protection from harmful media. This implies campaigns addressed to children and young people, parents and multipliers, both men and women, which aim to empower young people so that they become responsible media users and keep a critical distance to ambiguous contents.

*Promoting Youth Information and Media Competence*

The right to information is one of the fundamental rights of a democratic society. Dealing with information in a targeted and selective way is the prerequisite for a conduct of life that is rooted in the present and oriented towards the future. Modern information and communication technologies have drastically changed both the quality and quantity of information and the speed at which it is processed and exchanged.

The increasing application of electronic information and communication technologies in administrations, society and industry makes it necessary to give large sections of the population the possibility to obtain qualifications in IT and Internet usage through further education and training. This is a key element to securing their participation in the information society. Qualifications in information and communication technologies are imperative for young people in particular. A working life without media competence is inconceivable for the majority of future salary-earners.

The Federal Government advocates equal opportunities and social justice. Its objective is to make access to computers and the Internet and the intelligent use of new media a matter of course for all young people at school, during leisure time, training and on the job. Extra-curricular youth organisations – also as places for underprivileged young people to turn to – will be particularly challenged in this respect.

Competent use of digital media is one of the methodical-instrumental key skills which are indispensable for employability and social participation.

*Youth information* is not a separate sector of the child and youth services in Germany at federal level. There is no federal framework act on this sector. The Federal Government has limited responsibility. It may sponsor model initiatives and projects with supra-regional and international importance, thus stimulating and promoting developments in the Länder and municipalities.

A large number of information and counselling options from specialist institutions, Federal and Länder organisations are available to young people in
Germany on certain topics (career counselling, education counselling, health counselling, drug prevention, etc.).

In the course of developing a youth server which was launched in 1997 and discontinued in 2005, which served to provide fast, comprehensive access to child and youth-related information in Germany, a specialist portal of youth and child services (Fachkräfteportal der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, www.jugendhilfeportal.de) was created and in direct connection also a network of youth information by specialists on youth information.

The established specialist portal and the network coordinated by IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB – Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland) through a partnership with the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ) now represent a new stage of youth information in Germany, both in terms of their contents and quality.

The Federal initiative ‘Youth on the Net’ (Jugend ans Netz, project period July 2002 to June 2006) created a basis for informal education of young people through the Internet for the extracurricular sector. Its objective was to encourage young people from all over Germany, regardless of their social or educational background, to provide active input, to network and to communicate with others through the Internet.

In the context of a hardware and software acquisition campaign, a leasing model and the Youth Computer Club Package (Angebotspaket Jugend Computer Club), an opportunity for youth organisations was developed and explored to obtain hardware and software for media education regardless of investment funds or subsidies. The offer provided by the respective implementation partner is set out in a long-term timeframe.

The netzcheckers.de Youth Portal (www.netzcheckers.de) is the second pillar of Jugend ans Netz, and addresses young people between twelve and 16; it offers them interaction, information, communication and advice. Creative use of the Internet and new media helps young people to broaden their social skills through games. The portal teaches them to use new media responsibly.

The successor project Youth online (Jugend online), which was launched on 1 July 2006, complements the netzcheckers.de portal. Jugend online is a project by IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The project aims at introducing young people to the opportunities and chances provided by the Internet and the new media, promote a responsible attitude towards using them and enhance young people’s creative potential. Jugend online provides an informal learning option with the netzcheckers.de portal, which gives young people numerous opportunities to have a go at multimedia. The offering of the website www.jugendonline.eu (jugend.info) is aimed at youth support specialists.
So far, there is no global structural co-operation in youth information in Germany, either at municipal or at Länder level. The project entitled **Further Development of Youth Information in Germany** (Weiterentwicklung der Jugendinformation in Deutschland, www.jugendinfonetz.de), launched in 2007, aims to professionalise the sector of youth information and to network the different players; it is based on the working results of the 2005 and 2006 youth information networks.

The following measures are planned:
- Developing quality criteria in youth information and a youth information quality label
- Developing a model for basic training (basic and further training courses) for specialists in youth information, including certification
- More intensive participation of young people in youth information through documentation of practical models
- Continuing and intensifying the professional debate, an exchange of experience and co-operation between specialists in the field of youth information. Specialists, volunteers, both men and women, and young people form the target group for this part of youth information.

The Federal Ministry sponsors the **Blind Man’s Bluff Search Engine** (Suchmaschine Blinde Kuh, www.blinde-kuh.de), a German-language, non-commercial search engine specifically for children which is a suitable cover page to access the Internet. It ensures that children do not visit dubious websites but can find information on their search words in a way that is suitable for children.

**“Watch! What your children are doing”** (SCHAU HIN! Was Deine Kinder machen) is a national initiative by the Federal Ministry in partnership with the telecom service provider ARCOR, the public broadcasting stations ARD and ZDF and the TV magazine TV Spielfilm. It was launched in summer 2003 and aims at raising public awareness for the subject of children and the media and informing parents and educators about what is available in the electronic media and how to use them in a way that is suitable for children because media education at school has to be as natural as at home.

The website www.schau-hin.info provides parents and those with responsibility for education with information on children and the media, as well as on educational subjects; they are able to download working materials on specific themes, e.g. for organising a SCHAU HIN! Parent teacher meeting. “SCHAU HIN! Parents’ Special” is a free information brochure for parents that is published four times a year.

In 2005, the **Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons** (Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Medien) was extended by a section on media education which aims at propagating value-oriented media education, raising awareness and providing advice to the public. The department also
installed a service line for parents, teachers and other educators that provides individual advice on problems with children and young people using media and answers questions on legal and educational matters of youth protection against harmful media. The website [www.bundespruefstelle.de](http://www.bundespruefstelle.de) of the Federal Department for Media Harmful to Youth is to provide information to parents and children to become aware of the risks and opportunities of using new media, teach them how to use the new media responsibly, and answer questions; moreover, it delivers ideas and information to all persons working in media education and to the public at large.

The Federal Government's Commissioner for Culture and Media (BKM) and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth launched the 'Web for Children Initiative' (Initiative "Ein Netz für Kinder") with the aim of creating a safe browsing environment for children on the Internet with many interesting aspects tailored to their needs. The idea for this project was first presented at the EU media conference in Leipzig in May 2007 during Germany's EU Presidency.

This project is based on two pillars. 15 media enterprises are currently working on a white list with harmless Internet offerings for children which will form the basis for a safe browsing environment for children. The second pillar of the project is the promotion of Internet contents that are suitable for children by BKM and the Federal Ministry.

This initiative represents a positive counterpart to the repressive approach in youth protection against harmful media in the Internet. A wide range of services suitable for children helps them find interesting and varied contents fast and easily, thus preventing them from visiting unsuitable websites. At the same time, the positive services help children to obtain media competence by learning how to use the Internet in a safe environment and understand the web structure. The Federal Chancellor presented this initiative to the public in late November 2007.

In addition, a number of guides are being published:

- **The brochure “A web for children – browsing without risk”** (Ein Netz für Kinder – Surfen ohne Risiko) is a practical manual for parents, teachers, both men and women, on how children use the Internet, on safety on the Internet, advertising and buying over the Internet and websites recommended for children (it can be obtained through the Federal Ministry or at [www.jugendschutz.net/materialien/netz_fuer_kinder.html](http://www.jugendschutz.net/materialien/netz_fuer_kinder.html)).

- **The guide entitled “Game and learning software – evaluation from an educator’s perspective”** (Spiel- & Lernsoftware – pädagogisch beurteilt, Volume 17) describes computer and console games and good educational software which children and young people, as well as teachers, found useful. The guide is published by the Federal Centre for Political Education, Cologne.
Technical College and the Department for Children, Youth and Family Affairs of the City of Cologne (It can be obtained through the Federal Ministry).

- The guide “50 FAQs” (50 Fragen und 50 Antworten) provides recommendations on media education in the fields of TV, Internet, computer games, reading and cell phones (can be obtained through the Federal Ministry); it is part of the campaign “Watch! What your children are doing” in co-operation with ZDFonline.

- Children and young people hardly know any good chat rooms. However, there are chat rooms where they can communicate safely. The new edition of the brochure “Chatting without risks” (Chatten ohne Risiko) contains a chat atlas with 28 selected chat rooms and four instant messengers as well as background information on the subject of chatting, a legal evaluation of possible assaults in the chat room, safety information for children, young people, parents, female and male teachers. In addition, two flyers were redesigned to match two target groups; they provide a summary of the brochure’s information in a format for parents and teachers on the one hand, and children and young people on the other. Both the brochure and the flyers were designed by jugendschutz.net and can be obtained from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The corresponding website has been activated at www.chatten-ohne-risiko.de.

- A practical guide “Mobile phones without risk? Mobile safety – A guide for parents” (Handy ohne Risiko? Mit Sicherheit mobil – ein Ratgeber für Eltern) has been compiled for parents and educators on how to use cell phones; its aim is to strengthen their competence in media education and draw their attention to the manifold risks for children and young people. The importance of cell phones in children’s and young people’s lives has grown in recent years, as have the features offered by phones. The mobile phone has now become the most widespread gadget among children and young people in Germany. The technical upgrades of multi-media cell phones create new threats (e.g. contents harmful to youth can be transmitted by text or multi-media message); it is necessary to counter these threats. The guide can be obtained through the Federal Ministry or at www.jugendschutz.net/pdf/handy-ohne-risiko.pdf.

The nation-wide klicksafe.de (www.klicksafe.de) project is intended to improve the sense of judgement and legal capacity of users in the interest of children and young people; in particular, it is intended to give practical support to parents. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media sponsor the Klicksafe.de network to promote safe use of online media. The project relates to the awareness-raising measures defined in the EU action plan on the safe use of the Internet, and aims to draw public attention to the opportunities and risks
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of the Internet, networking the various existing national initiatives and players and incorporating them into the European context (national hub).

Since June 2006, the specialist portal on infant education (www.wissen-und-wachsen.de), an initiative by the Federal Ministry and Initiative D21, has been given a new emphasis on new media. How can I learn to do sums through the Internet? Where can I find language-training software? How do I install an educational game? Should children who still go to nursery be allowed to browse the web? These and similar questions are addressed by the new focal subject new media. The portal teaches educators, both men and women, practical recommendations on how to use computers and the Internet safely, and provides information on the areas of application for the new media in education.

The Federal competitions entitled German Youth Photography Award (Deutscher Jugendfotopreis), German Youth Video Award (Deutscher Jugendvideopreis) and Video of the Generations (Video der Generationen) sponsored by the Federal Ministry aim to trigger creative and receptive media competence. Annual invitations to submit applications to these competitions by the Children's and Youth Film Centre (Kinder- und Jugendfilmzentrum) animate young people to experiment actively with media and subject their creative talents to a cultural comparison in a public competition.

Fostering the Integration of Immigrant Children and Young People

Immigrant children and young people are confronted with special problems in our society. A disproportionately large number of them do not find access to training or a job, and they also struggle with language problems.

The same problems apply to ethnic German young people who, as Germans and immigrants, may not experience an immigration situation in legal respects but certainly to so in cultural and social respects, which has been aggravated by the poor language proficiency of this group, which indeed has been deteriorating since the 1990s.

The objective of child and youth policy is therefore to promote the integration of immigrants, in particular equal opportunities and development potential for children and young people. Aside from the necessary legal framework and awareness of immigrants' specific needs on the labour market and in education and training, it emphasises targeted language training as the central element of effective integration policy.

The Federal Ministry contributes sizeable funds to measures aimed at the integration of young immigrants; they include in particular the guarantee fund and the integration programme of the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation. The finances provided from the guarantee fund are primarily used to finance German language training and to enable the target individuals to obtain a qualified school-leaving diploma. The integration programme is primarily used
for funding youth welfare organisations under the auspices of the voluntary national youth welfare organisations.

The use of information technology to improve language the skills of immigrant young people seems to be a successful contribution to the integration of these young people into jobs and into society. This is why the youth service organisations which are sponsored by the Federal Ministry and responsible for the integration of young immigrants are increasingly being equipped with this technology. Particularly in the extracurricular sector, young immigrants must be encouraged to continue to improve their language and social skills themselves on the basis of the language course and under supervision.

The **National Integration Plan** presented in July 2007 provides the framework for improving the quality of integration of immigrant children and young people, as well as their families. It contains clear objectives, specific measures and voluntary commitments on the part of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders alike, which are complemented by criteria for the evaluation and implementation of the objectives and measures.

The Federal Government has taken a new approach of pursuing an enabling and sustainable integration policy which recognises and enhances the potential of immigrants.

**Youth Services and Schools**

Changing overall social conditions and new challenges to educational policies make it necessary to intensify networking and co-operation of child and youth service organisations on the one hand and schools on the other. Schools are increasingly being confronted with new challenges arising from changes in society or recent developments in other policy sectors. Due to changing family and social structures, schools also need to meet new demands for a day-care system of education, care and upbringing – comparable to the situation in which day-care centres for children find themselves. The demands of the modern knowledge, information and communication society also challenge schools more than ever to impart social skills and values aside from cognitive contents and key qualifications.

Schools and youth service organisations alike are called upon to develop customised options for all children and young people, and to mitigate the direct correlations between social background and academic success in Germany as established by international comparative educational surveys and studies.

The developments outlined create a demand for new learning, care and counselling options which cannot be satisfied by schools alone, and which has also not been covered by the present distribution of responsibilities between schools and child and youth service organisations. The investment programme entitled “The Future of Education and Care (Zukunft Bildung und Betreuung) launched by the Federal Government in 2003 (total volume: EUR 4 billion) has encour-
aged the establishment of new full-time schools and improvement of the quality of existing full-time models.

In this context, co-operation between child and youth service organisations and schools has been extended substantially. A recent study establishes that although child and youth organisations, in terms of their concept, are the most important partners of full-time schools; they account for only a quarter of schools’ co-operation partners, but in terms of the scale of what they offer, they amount to the lion’s share of co-operation.

The possibilities for co-operation are manifold, in line with the tasks of child and youth services as outlines in Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII, Child and Youth Services). The most established form of social work at schools is youth services at schools.

Other areas of co-operation include:
- Coordinating services at schools with the necessary education services.
- Co-operation between organisations and sponsors of youth services and youth social work and schools.
- Co-operation between nurseries and primary schools.
- Co-operation between after-school care centres and schools to streamline their services.
- Using participatory approaches of youth services to involve young people in shaping their school routines through co-operation with the youth organisations.
- Co-operation between schools, youth services and youth vocational assistance in shaping the transition from school to working life.
- Co-operation between youth service planning and school development planning oriented towards social areas, and for the integration of social and educational reporting with the objective of developing local education landscapes.

The development of local and regional education landscapes is an image that is currently being discussed all over Germany. The objective of local education landscapes is to create an overall system of education, upbringing and care at the municipal level where all players responsible for education and upbringing in the relevant institutions and organisations cooperate with one another. It implies an improvement of school education as much as a greater and more systematic integration of extra-curricular processes of education.

Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII, Child and Youth Services) and the school laws of several Länder require co-operation between child and youth service organisations and schools by law. The investment programme entitled Future Education and Care (Zukunft Bildung und Betreuung) formulated the primary objective of full-time schools being networked with extra-curricular partners for all Federal Länder. Meanwhile, many Länder have concluded framework co-operation agreements with organisations of extra-curricular education,
for instance with Land Youth Councils or State associations of cultural youth education. The associations formed by sponsors and institutions of child and youth services have been addressing this subject in many different ways over the last few years.

The Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ) published recommendations for co-operation between youth services organisations and schools in 2006. Regional co-operation networks have been set up in some locations. However, co-operation is organised under different circumstances and conditions in the individual Länder and municipal structures. Many good co-operation approaches have been found, though a nation-wide rollout and a more binding character are still pending.

Child and youth services, as well as schools, even though they use different approaches, share the objective of strengthening young people’s personalities, educating them to become responsible for their own actions and take on responsibilities for the sake of the common good, and preparing them for vocational qualification and adult life. The Federal Government firmly believes that both institutions are called upon to consider how they can overcome the divide deliberately introduced at the beginning of the century and perform their tasks and achieve their shared objectives through co-operation.

The distribution of responsibilities defined by the Basic Law allows for limited scope for action at federal level. Section 81 of Book VIII of the Social Code explicitly requests youth service organisations to cooperate with schools. Due to the Länder’s responsibility for legislation on schools and its enforcement, as well as the responsibility of the municipal authorities for implementation of Book VIII of the Social Code in the field of child and youth services, the Länder and the municipalities are in charge of any measures aimed at improving co-operation between child and youth service organisations and schools.

Taking into account the Länder’s and municipalities’ responsibilities, the Federal Government supports efforts to improve networking and co-operation, and contributes to furthering this co-operation through model projects. Moreover, best practice cases derived from the co-operation between schools and child and youth services structure are advocated and propagated.

**European and International Children and Youth Policy**

The German Federal Government’s youth policy is manifest in Germany’s co-operation in international and multi-lateral organisations/institutions, and is anchored in the Federal Republic of Germany’s foreign cultural policy. In concrete terms, the agency for implementing German international youth policy in European Union, Council of Europe bodies and the relevant United Nations campaigns is the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend,
BMFSFJ). The Ministry also leads mixed expert committees with other governments co-operating bilaterally in matters of youth policy.

The purpose of European and international youth policy is stated in the objectives of sections 1 and 2 of Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII). It is to help empower young people freely to develop their personality, to avail themselves of their rights and take up their responsibilities in society and the state.

The Federal Government’s central instrument for national, European and international youth policy and youth services is the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation. The European Commission and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth co-fund the implementation of the European Youth in Action 2007–2013 programme in Germany. The German Government provides total funding of over EUR 30 million each year for international youth policy and youth work. European Social Fund monies are increasingly being used in Germany to finance programmes under the European Youth Pact (see below) aimed at improving the integration of young people in society and employment.

**Youth and Europe**

1. **European Union**

Germany was among the founding countries of the European Union (formerly: European Community), which has now been in existence for approximately 50 years and has grown to 27 Member States. EU legislation and policy-making have a growing influence on the situation of young people. Youth policies in the European framework are now both a departmental and an inter-departmental policy area, with active input to young people’s involvement and perspectives. It centres on three themes: active citizenship, social and occupational integration, and youth matters in other policy fields.

The basis for European youth policy is Art. 149 of the EC Treaty, which describes the promotion of youth exchanges and exchanges of experts in the field of youth work, and a number of resolutions on youth policy co-operation in Europe adopted by the Council of Ministers, which has responsibility for youth affairs. The EU Reform Treaty of 2007 is the first to state that increased participation of young people in democratic life in Europe is a common task. An evaluation of youth policy co-operation is scheduled for 2009.

- **Active Citizenship**

The EU supports a society of active citizens and works to put European institutions more in touch with the people by improving processes to increase public participation. A European white paper entitled “New Impetus for Europe’s Youth” was issued in 2001 on the subject of European youth policy co-opera-
tion in information and democratic participation, voluntary commitment and better knowledge about youth. The European ministers responsible for youth have agreed to use the **Open Method of Coordination (OMC)** and **Structured Dialogue** for their work with young people on these topics.

**OMC** has been practised since 2002. It follows the principle of learning from one another. A survey of the respective national status quo in the four above-mentioned areas was carried out (e.g. participation of young people) and developed further along the lines of agreed objectives (e.g. enhanced “learning to participate”). The central element is to follow examples of “best practice” in the Member States.

**Structured Dialogue** has been in place since 2006. The intention is to improve the young people’s political involvement. The framework for dialogue between young people and politics is being created in a series of decentralised and European events, which include, for instance, youth events organised in the context of the EU Presidencies and European Youth Weeks.

Germany has prepared and published a number of **national youth reports** in the context of OMC. A number of OMC events have taken place since the system was implemented, debating the four themes and how to put them into practice in Germany. Some examples of good practice from Germany have found their way into the European Summary Reports (e.g. “Multi-generational centres”, and “Certificate International” in the Summary Report on volunteering). The BMFSFJ receives advice from the “European Youth Policy Task Force” with representation from the Länder and local authorities as well youth organisations and several umbrella and specialist organisations.

Structured Dialogue was implemented under the German EU presidency by means of events like the European Youth Event in Cologne in April 2007 and the informal youth forum with government ministers, chaired by the Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Ursula von der Leyen in May 2007.

- **Social and Occupational Integration**

The EU Heads of State and Government have agreed to turn Europe into the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. The so-called Lisbon Strategy sets ambitious economic, employment and social goals to be achieved in the EU Member States by 2010. In the light of demographic change in European society, the social and occupational integration of young people is gaining in significance.

The **European Youth Fact** was adopted in 2005 as an instrument of the Lisbon Strategy aimed at employment, integration, social betterment, general and vocational/professional education and mobility among young people as well as improved compatibility of family and working life. Inter-departmental approaches target, in particular, improvements in the situation of young people
who have had a less favourable start in life. Funding from the European Social Fund will be increasingly used for the implementation of the Pact.

Germany has joined forces with Portugal and Slovenia to focus on the theme of social and occupational integration for young people. The two latter countries will continue the first 18-month team presidency of the European Council in 2007–2008. Moving the European Youth Pact forward is a key element of their Presidencies.

Implementation of the Youth Pact in Germany is included in the Government’s national reform programme. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is the lead agency for giving information about individual measures at national level. Examples of implementation are the “National Pact for Vocational Training and Junior Professionals in Germany” (Nationaler Pakt für Ausbildung und Fachkräftennachwuchs in Deutschland), the federal pilot project Competence Agencies (Kompetenzagenturen) to provide skills for social and occupational integration to disadvantaged adolescents and another national pilot project entitled “Truancy – The Second Chance” (Schulverweigerung – Die 2. Chance). The target of the programme to bring children’s day-care up to modern requirements and quality standards is to provide day-care services for 35% of under-threes by 2013.

- Youth in Other Policy Areas

The EU White Paper on Youth (2001) emphasised the importance of youth policy as an inter-departmental line running through the fields of education, employment, mobility, the fight against racism and xenophobia, and personal autonomy. The inter-departmental approach received a boost with the Commission’s Communication on the promotion of comprehensive participation of young people in education, employment and society (2007). The goal is to create the formula for a comprehensive youth strategy in co-operation between politics and stakeholder groups at all levels. Close co-operation is expected among the relevant sectors of policy-making for young people (including health, as well as those listed above).

In the Council’s concluding remarks, the Member States and the European Commission call for better, more comprehensive and earlier investment in young people. Under the German presidency, the Council agreed on specific action in the form of preparing a regular European Youth Report by the Commission.

- EU Youth in Action Programme

Youth in Action 2007–2013 is the current follow-up programme to several others that promoted, among other things, the European exchange of young people and youth experts or the European Voluntary Service. It is directed towards adolescents and young adults aged between 13 and 30 with the purpose of encouraging their mobility, stimulating their initiative and creativity and famil-
iarising them with other cultures and ways of life. Youth in Action offers young people opportunities to acquire key personal qualifications. In addition, it aims to strengthen tolerance and solidarity and make young people more willing to take an active part in Europe as it grows more cohesive.

The programme covers five areas for action and is designed to inspire young people for Europe and to support both the stronger integration of disadvantaged young people in all kinds of activities, and the development of multilateral projects and networks.

In Germany, YOUTH for Europe was designated by the Ministry as the Youth in Action agency under the direct technical supervision of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The overall responsibility for the implementation of the programme lies with the European Commission, which is currently supported by 33 National Agencies in 31 European countries.

2. Youth Policy Co-operation in the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe was founded in 1949 and works with 47 countries (plus Belarus as an accession candidate and the Vatican with observer status) in the field of youth policy. Germany has been a member since 1951. The Council of Europe is a forum for debating general European issues. In its Youth policy, the Council of Europe’s main objectives are: to defend and promote human rights, pluralistic democracy and the rule of law. The Youth Sector of the Council of Europe has a major influence on European co-operation in the field due to its diverse activities and partnership agreements with the European Union.

The co-management structure of youth policy co-operation in the Council of Europe is unique in that all decisions on activities in the youth sector are taken jointly by governments and youth organisations. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, as a member (if possible, in the Executive Committee) of the European Youth Steering Committee (CDEJ), takes an active part in the Council of Europe’s youth policy-making.

The Ministry has also been involved since 1972 in support for the European Youth Foundation (www.coe.int/youth) and Council of Europe Youth Centres in Strasbourg (www.coe.int/youth/eycs) and Budapest since 1995 (www.eycb.coe.int).

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (www.youth-knowledge.net), which is part of the Council of Europe, is a partnership project between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the youth sector. It provides important information on youth and youth policies drawn from empirical research. The structure of the Knowledge Centre is based on national correspondents, who compile, evaluate and prepare information by order. The German correspondent is the IJAB, working on behalf of the Ministry.
The Council of Europe initiated a youth campaign for diversity, human rights and participation to run from June 2006 to September 2007 under the motto: “All different – all equal”. More than 40 Member states took part. The main aim of the campaign was to encourage adolescents to show active commitment among themselves and with others to appreciate diversity and oppose discrimination. The patron of the campaign in Germany was the Federal Minister for Youth.

3. Youth in the World – the United Nations

The United Nations was established in 1945 and is now an international organisation of 192 states whose main purpose is to secure world peace, compliance with international law, the protection of human rights and the encouragement of international co-operation. The Federal Republic of Germany (and formerly, the GDR) has been a member since 1973.

The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is dedicated to children under 18 and summarises their rights. Since 1995, there has been a world action programme for youth and the formulation of global youth policies. Its purpose is to induce governments to give due consideration to young people’s hopes for a better world and their demand to be part of the solution, rather than being seen as the problem. The programme of action presented ten fields of action when it was launched: education, employment, health, the environment, drugs, crime, leisure, gender issues and participation in decision-making processes. In 2003, further priority areas were added such as globalisation, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and inter-generational relations.

Starting in 2003, the World Youth Report is prepared each year with specific recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly regarding ways of improving the situation of young people throughout the world in a holistic approach. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth sends in regular reports for Germany.

In 2004 the United Nations sub-committee of the German Bundestag asked the Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt) to provide greater opportunities for young people to attend and observe the UN (initially with specific reference to the 60th General Assembly).

Together with the German United Nations Society, the Ministry started a model project, and from 2005, two youth delegates are elected each year to take part in UN General Assemblies and meetings of the Social Development Committee in New York. They accompany the German delegation and inform the Ministry and young Germans in the year following their visit about current UN developments from a youth perspective. They feed the opinions of young people back into the processes on an informal basis and network with one another and the youth delegates of other member countries.
The Economic and Social Council is one of the major organs of the UN, the central body for economic, social and development issues. Germany has been a member since 1974.

**International Youth Work**

**International youth work** is an important field of learning for young people to build up their international skills. International experience is an important priority in the process of lifelong learning and personality formation, as well as in promoting understanding between nations. It fosters tolerance and cross-border sharing, as well as facilitating access to young migrants. People who have come into contact with foreign cultures are less prone to racist and right-wing extremist thinking.

The German Government opens up doors for young people and youth service experts to gather international experience and work together across borders by sponsoring international meetings and programmes and creating conditions that are conducive to the acquisition of inter-cultural skills.

International youth work is concurrent with and part of national youth policy. It is a complex practice area for young people, in which they can be stimulated and guided as they learn how to take responsibility in society and engage in social commitments, in accordance with the postulates of Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII). A huge diversity of youth service providers with all their different missions, principles, work orientations and methods provide their full wealth of services.

International youth work falls under the **general responsibility of Federal, Land and local government**. Each level of government has its own way of promoting programmes for youth exchange and youth policy co-operation. Co-ordination seems an obvious requirement in the light of funding pluralism to ensure, as far as possible, support for continuity of partnerships and the consistency and sustainability of effects when setting the main emphasis of policy. Nonetheless, each level is free to accentuate particular aspects at its own discretion and on its own responsibility.

The Federal Government’s central instrument for funding both national and **international youth work** is the national Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan). The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth encourages and supports programmes for contacts and co-operation between young people and youth workers in the design of international youth work. The Ministry’s authority is both to stimulate and advance international work. It does this in the same way as for youth policy in general, and also helps to fund programmes sponsored by other local-level organisations working in co-operation with other Länder, and hence within the sphere of federal responsibility.
For decades, the German Government has been involved in partnership co-operation with several other EU governments in youth affairs. This usually takes the form of agreed annual or biannual protocols. As well as France and Poland, such partnerships exist with Finland, the UK, Spain, the Republic of Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Baltic countries. Bilateral inter-governmental treaties and agreements on youth exchanges are in place with over twenty countries. In bi-national bodies made up of representatives of both public and voluntary providers, the national representatives agree on modes of funding, a common focus for the work and the type and extent of the exchange with the respective countries.

The Franco-German Youth Office (Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk, DFJW) and the German-Polish Youth Office (Deutsch-Polnisches Jugendwerk, DPJW) hold a special place in bilateral co-operation in youth policy. The Offices are autonomous and funded in equal parts by contributions from the two governments. DFJW started work in 1963 and has enabled over seven million young Germans and French citizens to get to know each other. This has been a key element in cementing Franco-German friendship. With offices in Paris and Berlin, it encourages exchanges between youth organisations, sports clubs, schools and universities, language centres, vocational training institutions, occupational organisations and trade unions, local authorities and twinning committees. Awareness of being a European citizen, the transfer of experience from inter-cultural work in the Franco-German setting to relations with minorities in one’s own country, and joint peace work in third countries, are growing in significance for the DFJW (www.dfjw.org).

The German-Polish Youth Office, DPJW, has been working since 1993 to create a better understanding between young Germans and their Eastern neighbours. It also supports, in particular, organisers of youth encounters and specialist programmes, special campaigns in border areas and travel to memorial centres. Its offices in Potsdam and Warsaw provide services to over 130,000 young people per year. (www.dpjw.org).

Co-ordination centres in Regensburg and Plzen have been working under the title of Tandem – German-Czech Youth Exchange Co-ordination Centre (Tandem – Koordinierungszentrum deutsch-tschechischer Jugendaustausch) – since March 1998. Their objective is to extend and deepen existing German-Czech exchanges. TANDEM is an advisory and service agency for youth leaders, teachers and others with a commitment to German-Czech youth exchanges. The co-ordination centres stimulate exchange projects, set up contacts between youth organisations and schools from the two countries, and run twinning fairs and specialist conferences (www.tandem-org.de). The German-Czech Youth Information Portal (Deutsch-Tschechisches Jugendinformationsportal) www.ahoj.info went online on 28 August 2003.
The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has also supported German-Israeli exchanges for 50 years and, since 2000, the **ConAct Co-ordination Centre for German-Israeli Youth Exchange** (ConAct – Koordinierungszentrum Deutsch-Israelischer Jugendaustausch) in Wittenberg, the city associated with Martin Luther. The co-ordination centre gives information about funding for German-Israeli youth encounters and administers special funds from the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation for exchanges between young Germans and Israelis. It also offers conferences on selected topics and sets up contacts between youth exchange partners in Germany and Israel (www.conact-org.de).

Bavaria and Saxony also contribute to the funding of work in the two German (Tandem) co-ordination centres in Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (ConAct).

22 December 2005 was a historic date for **German-Russian youth exchange**: it marked a new chapter in bilateral relations with the signing of a government agreement on youth policy co-operation. The agreement opens up new opportunities and perspectives, especially for the young generation. For the first time, it applies to all adolescents, i.e. it includes young people at school, vocational trainees and young employees as well as those in extracurricular youth programmes.

Youth exchanges are open to young people from all the regions, all sections and strata of society irrespective of membership in an organisation and with equal access for all. It is hoped that the Russian side will pay special attention to the inclusion of the non-European regions.

A central element of the agreement is that co-ordinating offices be established in Russia and Germany. They provide information to interested parties, give advice and manage the funding for the exchange. The **Russian-German Youth Exchange Foundation** (Stiftung Deutsch-Russischer Jugendaustausch gGmbH) is the German co-ordination office (www.stiftung-drja.de). Its partner is the Russian National Co-ordination Bureau for Exchanges with the Federal Republic of Germany. The German-Russian Youth Exchange Foundation was set up in February 2006 as a public-private partnership. The shareholders of the Foundation, which has its offices in Hamburg, are the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Robert Bosch Foundation GmbH and the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft).

Co-operation is also well developed in matters of youth policy with the countries bordering the Baltic Sea. It has received a great deal of support in the form of information and advice from the **Baltic Secretariat for Youth Affairs** in Kiel (www.balticsea-youth.org); for example, assistance for governments when organising meetings, implementation of the work schedule for the Baltic Sea Group for Youth Issues. The Baltic Secretariat is funded by all the Baltic coun-
tries, which also co-operate in the “Children at Risk” network for the protection of young people.

Youth policy co-operation among the Baltic States aims to encourage active citizenship for young people and uses youth exchange as a means of improving understanding and knowledge of the Baltic countries. The co-ordinator of this youth policy co-operation is the Baltic Sea Working Group for Youth Affairs – WGYA, in which the Ministry is represented.

The new youth policy co-operation with China is based on an agreement between the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the All-China Youth Federation of the People’s Republic of China. It dates from September 2006 and focuses on youth service co-operation. The objective is to build mutual cultural understanding and foster youth exchanges.

The Ministry also supports extensive youth and expert exchanges with Turkey. The German Government maintains youth policy relations with Japan and promotes youth exchanges with other countries under special programmes.

Another significant aspect, in addition to exchanges and meetings between young people, is to develop ideas for building up national youth work by means of expert programmes. Major national themes are tackled in selected partner countries to ensure that more experience from other countries feeds back into the national discourse than in the past. Thus, for example, the theme of migration is a key topic for work with Turkey and Spain, and the policy areas of civic commitment and participation are discussed with Finland, the Czech Republic and Israel. Reflection with experts and the solutions adopted in the various disciplines by the countries in question are of great interest to the German youth services for historical and cultural reasons.

Exchanges between managers, staff and youth work experts target the sharing of experience in their particular field of expertise. Either the appropriate technical organisations or the IJAB are responsible for the arrangements.

IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB – Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland) is the agency for the BMFSFJ’s international youth work (www.ijab.de). It operates technical programmes and language courses for full-time and volunteer staff from German and foreign child and youth service organisations. It also offers cross-functional in-service and on-going qualification courses in the field of international youth work to promote youth policy co-operation between Germany and other countries.

The full array of youth service providers with all their diversity in terms of values, work content, forms and methods finds its place in the design of international youth work programmes.
The German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR), the German Sports Youth (Deutsche Sportjugend, dsj) and the Council of Political Youth Organisations (Ring Politischer Jugend, RPJ) together form the German National Committee for International Youth Work (Deutsches Nationalkomitee für internationale Jugendarbeit, DNK), through which the three umbrella youth organisations are represented in the various structures of multi-lateral youth co-operation in Europe. Consequently, they participate at the key points of joint policy-making in international youth work as members of DNK. This is the channel for their representation, for instance, at the European Youth Forum (www.youthforum.org).

Bi-lateral and multi-lateral work camps are a special form of international youth work in international community service. Many of them work exclusively in the service of civic education for peace and reconciliation work. The Ministry supports these programmes and campaigns with funding from the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation, which provides scheduled project funding. Funding for international youth work is also available via the long-term grant support to national provider organisations.

Longer periods of voluntary service also contribute to civic education for peace. Voluntary service offers special learning opportunities. It is a means of personal development and personality building. Voluntary commitment is a lesson in social involvement, both with reference to the content of the work (willingness to take responsibility, helping other people, acting according to values, etc.) and also with reference to forms and contexts (learning with and through others, communication and teamwork).

The Act on the Promotion of a Voluntary Social Service Year or Voluntary Ecological Service Year allows volunteers to carry out their service outside Germany. Since the law was revised in 2002, this can mean not only in Europe but countries outside Europe as well. Voluntary service overseas can be dedicated especially to peace and reconciliation. Recognized conscientious objectors can carry out a year of voluntary social or ecological service in lieu of their alternative civilian service under section 14c of the Alternative Civilian Service Act (Zivildienstgesetz).

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth attaches high priority to sports in the context of international youth work, as sports can be used to address many different areas of youth work in an international exchange, such as culture, in technical fields or in music. The games element of sporting activities in the context of an international youth exchange or the Paralympics can help to substantially reduce prejudice, promote tolerance and combat xenophobia.

Sports activities in a youth work setting are particularly favoured, both by central federal sponsorship organisations in their long-term funding for international youth work, and in the context of bilateral special programmes arising
from government agreements. Thus, the largest of the German youth federa-
tions, German Sports Youth, receives grant funding for projects executed within
the framework of international youth work with young people and youth service
professionals.

There is an increasing demand for information and counselling, espe-
cially if it has an international and, more particularly, a European dimen-
sion, to enhance the qualification of youth meetings and technical exchanges,
notably through the use of modern media. The diversity of types and methods
of international youth work, and the large number of different funding systems,
including the EU Commission and Council of Europe Programmes, place higher
and higher demands on the leaders and “teamers”, who are often volunteers.
They need the appropriate training and skill-building to meet the standards.

Qualified international youth work programmes are a personal enrichment
for the participants and help to guarantee stable cross-border partnerships. The
German Government funds various international online services such as:

- **The International Youth Work Database** (Datenbank für internationale
  Jugendarbeit, DIJA, www.dija.de) is an IJAB project and an online aid for inter-
national youth work professionals and people who wish to become experts.
The country information offers an abundance of relevant data about selected
countries themselves and their young people. The information about the
Federal Republic of Germany is available in English, French, Japanese (the
part on youth policy), Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish
and Chinese.

- **Eurodesk** (www.eurodesk.de) is a European youth information network
  with national agencies in 30 countries and over 900 regional service points.
  In addition to the co-ordination office in Germany, there is a nationwide
  Eurodesk network with 40 local Eurodesk contact points. The objective of
  the network is to facilitate access to Europe for young people and youth work
  trainers. A great deal of varied information on topics related to youth, educa-
tion, mobility and many other aspects is aimed at helping young people to
  benefit from Europe as it grows closer together and to avail themselves of the
  opportunities offered by cross-border activities.

- **www.webforum-jugend.de** is the Internet portal for YOUTH for Europe –
  German National Agency for the EU Youth in Action Programme.

- **www.jugenti.de** is the website of “Co-operation for Youth and Interna-
tional Development” (Kooperation Jugend und Entwicklung International).
  It is operated by IJAB in co-operation with the transfer association and the
  GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit). It is a joint
  venture of provider organisations for international youth work and develop-
  ment co-operation. It supports networking and exchange among players with
  responsibility for projects in both fields of work. The purpose is to promote
  synergies and expand skills on both sides.
- **Rausvonzuhaus** (“Get away from home”, [www.rausvonzuhaus.de](http://www.rausvonzuhaus.de)) is an information portal. It is funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the European Commission’s Directorate General for Education and Culture and operated by IJAB and EURODESK. It contains a great deal of services, advice, programme previews and information about other countries.

- **www.guetezuge-aupair.de** is the website of the association of leading au-pair organisations and agencies. They have joined up to form the **Association Aiming to Guarantee the Quality of Home Stays Under an Au-Pair Scheme** (Gütegemeinschaft Au-pair). Its purpose is to create transparent and comparable conditions for host families and au pairs and allow independent checks to be made.

- **BALTICSEADESK** ([www.balticseadesk.org](http://www.balticseadesk.org)) is the portal for co-operation in the youth sector among the Baltic countries.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth also encourages the exchange of German youth information specialists in the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) via membership of IJAB.

**Certificates International** (Nachweise International, [www.open-the-world.net](http://www.open-the-world.net)) was introduced in 2006 to give young people an opportunity to obtain certification of skills they have acquired or demonstrated during a youth meeting. It is a three-tier certification system for volunteer participation, commitment and skills among “teamers” at international meetings and programmes for professionals. Certificates International contributes to the European and national recognition and development of non-formal learning and performance in child and youth services.

International youth work has always been an integral part of the Federal Youth Plan funding process since its inception in 1950. Whereas the general objectives of inter-cultural learning still apply, changes and modifications have been made to the substantive and regional alignment of the programmes. The historical and regional focus of youth policy co-operation with Western European neighbours, above all France, Poland and also Israel, has been steadily broadened. The objective is for young people to identify with Europe and recognise and take advantage of the chances resulting from the process of growing closer together. On the other hand, the newly established co-operation with China is beginning to open new perspectives in youth policy co-operation with a rising region.
International Child Policy

The Federal Republic of Germany has three levels of international co-operation development in its policy on children: the United Nations, the European Union and the Council of Europe. The outstanding priorities are: securing children’s rights, combating child trafficking and prostitution, child pornography and sex tourism, and co-operation in the field of international adoption.


The principles laid down in the document clarify the obligation of the contracting states to create, beyond the primary responsibility of parents, conditions for the positive development of children and young people. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is a sign of the international community’s respect and responsibility towards children all over the world.

The 192 signatories to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child have to report to the UN every five years on their national progress.

The Federal Republic of Germany has written the requirements of the Convention into its national law.

The Federal Government’s Second State Report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was the subject of a hearing held in Geneva on 16 January 2004. The report of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations showed that children’s rights and policies on children have been given new priority in Germany in recent years. Policies for and with children, especially regarding their participation in decision making, have become an integral part of political life. The report also documents the fact that a wide range of non-governmental organisations are actively engaged in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as are the Federal Government, the Länder and local authorities.

On 6 September 2000 in New York, Germany signed two protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The first concerns the involvement of children in armed conflict. The minimum age for compulsory conscription was raised to 18. This also applies to voluntary recruitment and the deployment of children in armed conflict by non-governmental organisations.

The second protocol refers to child trafficking, prostitution and pornography. The optional protocol on this matter requires the signatories to make the trafficking, prostitution and exploitation of children for pornography a criminal offence. Signatory states undertake to comply with common standards.
At the World Children’s Summit in May 2002, Germany advocated the closer association of the action plan “A World Fit for Children” with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The new agenda supplements the 1990 action plan and sets targets and specific actions for the next ten years. The targets are: the protection of children from violence, poverty and discrimination, access to education, children’s participation and health protection, and providing money to reduce indebtedness.

The National Action Plan (NAP) “For a Germany Fit for Children 2005–2010” (Nationaler Aktionsplan “Für ein kindergerechtes Deutschland 2005–2010”) links up with the World Children’s Summit. Like all the signatory states, Germany undertakes to establish a national action plan with specified timelines and measurable objectives and projects. This is the means of implementing internationally defined objectives at national level.

The Ministry provides information about children’s rights, their implementation and the UN’s child protection policies on the specially adapted children’s internet portal www.kinderministerium.de.

Alternative Civilian Service

A conscientious objector to military service in the armed forces is obliged to render alternative civilian service instead. Alternative civilian service is an alternative to compulsory military service, and hence linked to the general obligation to serve. The German Federal Government still acknowledges general military service as the best form of defence for the Federal Republic of Germany. The duration and conduct of civilian service is governed by the same rules as military service.

The Coalition Treaty of 11 November 2005 emphasises for the first time the importance of alternative civilian service, not only as a substitute for military service but also in the field of social and youth policy. Young people’s social commitment and service is always useful for the inter-generational cohesion that is the foundation of our society and one of the most important political objectives for the BMFSFJ. The Federal Commissioner for Alternative Civilian Service and the alternative civilian service staff department in the Ministry are also the regulators of the Federal Agency for Alternative Civilian Service, which has branch offices throughout Germany.

Alternative civilian service as a substitute for military service is not a social mission, but it has substantial socio-political significance in terms of service to other people. By acquiring key qualifications through the learning curve of service, and also through the improved courses at government or NGO civilian service preparation centres, young men are better equipped for starting a career on completion of their service. Furthermore, these key qualifications facilitate routine work with the people they look after and staff in the civilian service.
offices. Trials of new course models are due to start soon. When proved fit for purpose, they will be anchored in law.

**The Federal Commissioner for Alternative Civilian Service in the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth**

The Federal Commissioner for Alternative Civilian Service carries out the functions in this context for which the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is responsible under § 2 of the Alternative Civilian Service Act (Zivildienstgesetz). He is the Ministry’s spokesman to the public and is at the service of conscientious objectors, non-governmental welfare organisations and other sponsor organisations offering civilian service employment. The Commissioner takes an official stance on fundamental policy issues concerning alternative civilian service and conscientious objection.

Intensive discussion with alternative civilian service recruits in their workplaces and civilian service training centres is an important part of his work. The Commissioner for Alternative Civilian Service is the ombudsman for all civilian service recruits.

**Promoting Research**

Research projects are indispensable for the Ministry’s technical and political work.

Within its remit for child and youth policies, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth funds many experimental and research projects, not only for the development and improvement of social, family and youth service interventions and assistance, but also for verification and evaluation of their effects and success.

**The Federal Government’s Reports on Children and Youth**

Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII), which deals with child and youth services, places the obligation on the Federal Government, the Bundestag and the Bundesrat to report on the situation of young people and what has been done in the field of youth services during each legislative period. As well as analysing and taking stock of the current situation, the report is to contain proposals for further development in youth welfare.

The Federal Government’s reports on children and youth constitute a specific form of social accountability at the interface between academic research, politics and professional practice. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth appoints an expert committee for the next report, as required by section 84 of Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB VIII).
The most recently-published Twelfth Child and Youth Report took up the theme of “Extracurricular education” in 2005 (www.bmfsfj.de/doku/kjb). The working title for the 13th report is “Preventive healthcare and health promotion in child and youth services” (Gesundheitsbezogene Prävention und Gesundheitsförderung in der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe).

**Bundesjugendkuratorium**  
(Federal Youth Board)

The Federal Youth Board (Bundesjugendkuratorium, BJK) advises the Federal Government on fundamental issues of child and youth services, as well as interdepartmental issues of children and young people (section 83 subs. 2 of Book VIII of the Social Code (SGB), Child and Youth Services Act (Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz)). This consultancy remit covers child and youth (service) policy matters as they are designated by the Federal Government. BJK may also forward opinions, recommendations and position papers to the Federal Government, the responsible ministry and the (professional) public. It ensures the suitable involvement of young people in its deliberations.

The Federal Youth Board has 15 expert members representing the following areas: politics, administration, associations and science. They are appointed by the Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and in consultation with the other ministers in the Federal Government for the duration of a legislative period of the Deutsche Bundestag, or until the end of the first quarter following the elections to the Deutsche Bundestag.

In its statement entitled “Protection against risks to a child’s well-being – comments on the current debate” (Schutz vor Kindeswohlgefährdung – Anmerkungen zur aktuellen Debatte) the Federal Youth Board entered the public debate on child protection at the end of 2007. Instead of repeatedly launching new models and model programmes on child protection and trying to find the “golden rule” for more efficient child protection, the Board advised that there should first be more intensive monitoring and evaluation of the wide variety of grassroots preventive projects and models aiming to prevent any risk to a child’s well-being. This is one of the demands put forward by the Federal Youth Board (BJK) in its abovementioned statement.

The full text of the statement and additional information on the Federal Youth Board are available at: www.bundesjugendkuratorium.de.

Since 2007, the Federal Youth Board has been supported by a Child and Youth Policy Unit (Arbeitsstelle Kinder- und Jugendpolitik), which receives financial support from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and is attached to the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut) in Munich.
Subordinate Agencies and Structures

Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Medien, BPjM
(Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons)

Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Medien (BPjM)
Rochusstr. 10, D-53123 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 962103-0, Fax: +49 228 379014
E-Mail: info@bpjm.bund.de, Internet: www.bundespruefstelle.de

The federal agency that examines media to decide whether the content is suitable for young people is referred to as the Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons (Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Medien, BPjM). It is an autonomous government agency with its own budget and reports to the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ).

Work of the “Legal Youth Media Protection” Sector

The BPjM adjudicates on the risk posed to young people by media content (whether recorded or broadcast) at the request of government youth agencies and the Committee for the Media Protection of Young People (Kommission für Jugendmedienschutz) or any other government agency or accredited sponsor of non-government youth welfare services. Media deemed unsuitable for young people are placed on an index (black list), which means that their sale, distribution and advertising are subject to certain restrictions in order to limit their accessibility to adults only.

The basis in the law is:
- the Protection of Young Persons Act (Jugendschutzgesetz, JuSchG)
- the Implementation Ordinance on the Protection of Young Persons Act (Verordnung zur Durchführung des Jugendschutzgesetzes, DVO JuSchG)
- the Länder Convention on Youth Protection in the Media (Jugendmedien-schutz-Staatsvertrag, JMStV).

Recorded media and broadcasts likely to have adverse effects on the development or education of children and/or adolescents, jeopardising their personality growth into responsible and socially skilled individuals, are deemed to constitute a danger to young persons (offence of endangering youth). This includes in particular immoral, indecent, degrading media or any likely to incite to violence, crime or racial hatred.
The bodies that judge whether media are a danger to the young are the “Group of 12”, and, in cases of an obvious threat, the “Group of Three”. Various stakeholder and focus groups from our pluralistic society are represented in all decisions made by these bodies. The composition of the BPjM bodies that issue the rulings combines representation of social diversity with expert knowledge.

**Work of the Department of Youth Protection through Media Education (“Pädagogischer Jugendmedienschutz”)**

The purpose of this department is to promote the protection of the young through value-based media education and awareness-raising in the public domain.

It offers parents, educators, media education personnel and children and adolescents:
- tips on media education
- media recommended by experts
- how to deal with controversial media content
- presentation of projects for children and adolescents
- talks, presentations, etc.

The **Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons** (Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Medien) provides comprehensive information about education and the law on the protection of young people from harmful media on its website (www.bundespruefstelle.de). The two pages on “Legal Youth Media Protection” and “Guidance in Media Practice” are intended to help parents, educators, and also children, adolescents and other interested parties to make the most of the opportunities in using all media while actively avoiding the pitfalls.

Experts from the Federal Review Agency give individual advice and help with problems of media use by children and adolescents on their hotline, the **BPjM Service Telephone (+49 228 376631)**. It is available for parents, teachers and others working in the field of education (e.g. in kindergartens or youth welfare offices). They also give information about the legal and educational aspects of media protection for young people.

The Federal Review Agency offers **presentations and fair stands** to educate parents and educators, teachers and other professionals in the field of legal and educational protection of the young from harmful media. The material includes ideas for children’s media education, aimed at teaching a balanced and critical awareness to enable young people to take a sensible approach towards quality and quantity in their use of media.
The Federal Office for Alternative Civilian Service is an independent Federal Government agency under the remit of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Its purpose is to implement the conscientious objection and alternative civilian service process within the provisions of the law. Its principal tasks are to recruit, supervise and train young men subject to compulsory civilian service and liaise with the welfare offices, organisations and their administration where conscientious objectors are deployed.

The Federal Office works in a spirit of mutual confidence in the execution of its work with conscientious objectors, young men subject to compulsory civilian service, non-government organisations, government agencies, as well as other institutions and groupings within society.

Civilian service is for the common good and is usually performed in social services. Generally, it is a personal service in charitable or welfare institutions accredited with the Federal Office. The conscientious objector is not an employee, but occupies a place in government service with special rights and obligations.

The basis in law for the acknowledgement of conscientious objectors is the Refusal to Render Armed Service for Reasons of Conscience Act – Conscientious Objection Act (Gesetz über die Verweigerung des Kriegsdienstes mit der Waffe aus Gewissensgründen – Kriegsdienstverweigerungsgesetz, KDVG) of 9 August 2003, and the basis in law for alternative civilian service is the Alternative Civilian Service for Conscientious Objectors Act – Alternative Civilian Service Act (Gesetz über den Zivildienst der Kriegsdienstverweigerer – Zivildienstgesetz, ZDG) of 17 May 2005, last amended on 31 October 2006. The Basic Law, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany, does not provide for a choice between military and civilian service. Only acknowledged conscientious objectors are eligible for civilian service.

The Act for the Re-alignment of the Federal Armed Forces (Gesetz zur Neuausrichtung der Bundeswehr) came into force on 1 January 2002. Provisions were added to allow young men subject to military and alternative civilian service to break up the time of civilian service into sections. Alternative civilian service can be rendered section by section if this is compatible with the deploy-
ment and the serviceman agrees to it (section 24 subs. 2 sentence 4 of the Alternative Civilian Service Act).

Instead of alternative civilian service, other substitutes are possible according to sections 14 et seqq.

Civilian servicemen who commit to a year of voluntary social or ecological service are exempted from conscription to alternative civilian service (section 14c of the Alternative Civilian Service Act), on proviso that they commence their service within one year after signing the commitment and before their 24th birthday. Acknowledged conscientious objectors can contract with voluntary provider organisations, which have to be accredited under the provisions of the “Act on the Promotion of the Voluntary Social Service Year” (Gesetz zur Förderung eines Freiwilligen Sozialen Jahres) or the “Act on the Promotion of Ecological Service Year” (Gesetz zur Förderung eines Freiwilligen Ökologischen Jahres).

YOUTH for Europe – German Agency for the EU Youth in Action Programme

JUGEND für Europa – Deutsche Agentur für das EU-Programm JUGEND IN AKTION
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Tel.: +49 228 9506–220, Fax: +49 228 9506–222
E-Mail: jfe@jfemail.de, Internet: www.webforum-jugend.de, www.salto-youth.net

The European Union's Youth in Action programme runs for seven years (2007 to 2013) and promotes international extracurricular activities for young people aged between 13 and 30 (youth encounters, European Voluntary Service) and initiatives by young people who plan and carry them out independently. The programme also supports on-going training, for instance for youth workers and other youth work professionals.

The general priorities for the implementation of the programme are:
- European citizenship
- participation of adolescents
- cultural diversity
- integration of adolescents with limited means.

The Youth in Action programme also helps with the implementation of European youth policy activities arising from the common goals and the European Pact for Youth. Youth in Action also supports projects aimed at cooperation and structured dialogue between young people, youth work and youth organisation professionals, and policy makers for youth, organising appropriate seminars wherever its scope permits.
YOUTH for Europe is mandated by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) as Germany’s national agency to support the EU Commission in implementing the EU Youth in Action programme by awarding grants for international extracurricular activities and initiatives by young people. YOUTH for Europe provides information about the development of Youth in Action and the opportunities available under the annual programme of in-service and further training for international youth workers and young people wishing to implement their own projects.

In addition, YOUTH for Europe co-ordinates further training activities as a SALTO Centre (Support for Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities), which are currently offered in 31 countries as part of the network of all 33 national agencies.

The SALTO Centre at YOUTH for Europe is also responsible for the development and introduction of Youthpass, a system of describing and confirming non-formal learning processes in the context of Youth in Action.

The BMFSFJ has established a national advisory committee and appointed independent experts as its members to facilitate the implementation of the Youth in Action programme. Its executive arm is the German agency YOUTH for Europe.

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The Federal Foreign Office is responsible for maintaining relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and other states and international or supra-national organisations. Long-term international relations require a cultural foundation. Thus, foreign cultural and educational policy (AKBP) is an integral part of German foreign policy. It aims to bring people together across borders, especially the young generations.

The Foreign Ministry has a limited amount of funding available for the promotion of international school and extracurricular exchanges. The grants
awarded in the field of international youth exchanges are governed by the directives of the Federal Plan For Children and Youth. Funding is given for:

- trilateral youth encounters run by the Franco-German Youth Office (www.dfjw.org) with countries in South Eastern, Central and Eastern Europe.
- youth encounters as part of local government (twinning) partnerships. The funds are made available to the Council of Communities and Regions of Europe (CCRE). The Council awards grants according to the guidelines agreed with the Foreign Ministry – which are available on the Internet at www.rgre.de – the member municipalities of the German Association of Cities (Deutscher Städtetag), the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund) and the German County Association (Deutscher Landkreistag).

- German-British youth encounters. An information and advertising office for bilateral school and youth exchanges was established in London in November 2005 (“UK-German Connection”). The website “www.the-voyage.com” was re-designed and now provides information for people with an interest in exchanges and tips for programmes/funding opportunities.
- Selected individual projects. Principal topics: building democracy, EU citizenship, reinforcement of human rights, conflict prevention, acquisition of inter-cultural skills and networking among potential German and foreign future leaders, promotion of Germany as a base for study and research. The geographical focus is Central and Eastern Europe, India and China.

In the school setting, the Educational Exchange Service of the Conference of Ministers of Education and Culture (Pädagogischer Austauschdienst der Kultusministerkonferenz, PAD – www.kmk.org/pad/home.htm) operates various programmes on behalf of and with funding from the Foreign Office. School parties travelling to Germany from abroad can receive grants, in particular for:

- school twinning arrangements with the USA, Israel, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
- bonus programme: Winners of national German language competitions in over 90 countries are invited to a four-week visit to Germany.
- courses in German language and culture for foreign students to German schools.
- programme for foreign language assistants: practical year abroad for future language teachers and foreign teachers in German schools.
- selected individual projects (direct funding from the Foreign Office). Their thematic and geographical focus is the same as for youth encounters.

Child and youth policy also plays a part in the UN. Youth is a standing agenda item at the annual sessions of the General Assembly’s Third Committee and in the Social Development Committee of the Economic and Social Council.
(ECOSOC). The German Foreign Ministry negotiates the relevant resolutions on the basis of the government's international youth policy led by the BFSFJ.

The Federal Government’s delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in New York has been accompanied since 2005 by two young Germans as youth delegates. This gives the young delegates the opportunity to observe what goes on, engage in discussions with young people from other countries and represent the interests of German youth. The project is sponsored by the German United Nations Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Vereinten Nationen e. V. (DGVN)) and the German National Committee for International Youth Work (DNK). The Foreign Office supports the project as a co-operation partner. Application details for young adults aged between 18 and 25 are available at www.jugenddelegierte.de.

**Bundesministerium des Innern**  
(Federal Ministry of the Interior)

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The work of the Federal Ministry of the Interior is very wide-ranging. It covers matters from resettlement policy through civic education, internal security, protection of the constitution, government service, migration and integration policy, to civil defence and disaster management, plus the promotion of sports, especially elite sports, and support for the “Youth Trains for the Olympics” competition.

**Combating Right-wing Extremism**

Combating right-wing extremism is a struggle against as a multi-causal phenomenon. It is one of the main elements of domestic policy based on a combined approach of prevention and repression.

The strengthening of civil society, civic responsibility and, in particular, young people’s commitment to the democratic process in support of the rule of law, occupies a central position in the government’s preventive action against right-wing extremism (www.verfassungsschutz.de).
The Federal Ministry of the Interior joined with the Federal Ministry of Justice in May 2000 to launch the nationwide “Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance – Against Extremism and Violence”. This is an umbrella for government and non-government forces in society to reaffirm democratic constitutional consensus, gather ideas and promote communication and co-ordination among initiatives for mutual information. Of the 1,300 initiatives subscribing to the “Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance – Against Extremism and Violence”, more than a third work with children and young people (www.buendnis-toleranz.de).

The state has a moral obligation, especially to young people, who are particularly targeted by right-wing extremists, not to give up on anyone. For this reason, the Federal Ministry of the Interior works with the constitutional protection agencies to help young people to escape from the right-wing extremist scene. The purpose of the assistance programme for those who renounce right-wing extremism is aimed at giving them a serious motivation to leave. A nationwide help-line at the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution offers help to prevent them from drifting further into extreme right-wing circles with a propensity to violence. A link on the Federal Ministry of the Interior’s website (www.bmi.bund.de) guides users to this exit programme.

The Ministry’s prevention programme also includes civic education for children and adolescents in the fight against right-wing extremism.

Integration Courses – an Instrument of Integration Policy

The objective of the Federal Government’s integration policy is to enable immigrants to play their part in society and assure equal opportunities for them. It is deemed successful when immigrants are fully integrated at all levels of society, i.e. socially, culturally, legally and politically. The key to integration is language proficiency in German.

The Government’s most important instrument, the integration course, was introduced when the Immigration Act (Zuwanderungsgesetz) came into force on 1 January 2005. The standard course for all immigrants (resettlers and foreigners) consists of a language and orientation course with a total of 630 units.

The language course comprises 300 units each at basic and advanced level. Its purpose is to enable participants to find their way independently through routine processes, engage in conversation in a manner appropriate to their age and educational background, and express themselves in writing.

The orientation course takes up 30 units and conveys knowledge about Germany, not only in details of everyday life, but also with regard to the rule of law, German culture and history. Particular emphasis is placed on the Federal Republic of Germany’s free democratic order, the party system, the federal
structure, the state social security system and the principles of equal rights, tolerance and religious freedom.

Special youth integration courses are offered to young people over the compulsory school age up to their 27th birthday in preparation for tertiary education or vocational training.

The Ministry funds many integration projects and initiatives in addition to this legal minimum service. They mostly focus on integration into local communities, introduction to social institutions, prevention (of violence and addiction plus conflict management), promoting acceptance among the local population, improving co-existence between late re-settlers, foreigners and the indigenous population and promoting voluntary commitment.

The “Integration through Sports” programme combines all these purposes. It has been run for 17 years by the German Olympic Sports Federation and builds on the integrative and preventive functions of sports.

“Youth Trains for the Olympics”
(JUGEND TRAINIERT FÜR OLYMPIA)

The Federal Ministry of the Interior funds the schools competition “Youth Trains for the Olympics” insofar as it is within its remit. This is a very popular nationwide team competition for elite performance among schools, involving some 900,000 school students each year.

The purpose of the competition is to promote team spirit and aspirations to high performance among young people in and through sports. At the same time, it assists sporting talent-spotting and talent development at federal and Land level. The programme is made even more attractive for children and adolescents by adding fun and trendy sports in addition to the traditional Olympic disciplines.

The school teams compete against one another locally before going through to the three federal finals. These take place in spring and autumn in Berlin, and in different winter sports areas for the Winter competition. The qualification process covers several intermediate rounds among the school teams within the Federal Länder. The winning regional teams go through to national competitions to find the best German school team in particular competition categories of the various sports disciplines.

In recent years, the competition has revised its basic concept at the Government’s request to embark on new ways of focussing more closely on talent spotting and development for elite sports. By concentrating more on performance, the competition has a bridging function with the national sports federations to bring forward the next generation of elite athletes.
The cost of the national finals is shared by the Land of Berlin, the sponsor organisation of the national competition and the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

**Funding of Political Foundations**

The Ministry is currently funding the work of six political foundations (Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation). The foundations are completely independent with regard to their work in political education.

**Subordinate Agencies and Structures**

*Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung*  
(Federal Agency for Civic Education)

Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung  
Adenerallee 86, D–53113 Bonn  
Tel.: +49 228 99515–0, Fax: +49 228 99515–113  
E-Mail: info@bpb.de, Internet: www.bpb.de  
Other websites (selected): www.fluter.de, www.hanisauland.de

**Berlin Office**  
Stresemannstr. 90, D–10963 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 30 254504–0, Fax: +49 30 254504–22

The Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, BpB) was established in 1952 for the purpose of promoting democratic understanding among the population and motivating and empowering people in the Federal Republic of Germany to participate in political life as responsible, critical and active individuals. It publishes books, periodicals, work materials and multi-media civic education products, is present on the Internet (www.bpb.de), organises events and provides grant funding to assist the work of independent organisations in the field of civic education. The BpB has substantially broadened the scope of its educational work for adolescents and the young generation over the years.

BpB takes up current political, societal and historic issues in events, print materials, audio-visual and online products. It provides background information and presents various topics for public debate from the point of view of differing positions in politics, society and academic research in order to main-
tain a political balance. The focus on central content is linked with issues of teaching methods for youth and adult civic education. The topics and ways of communicating educational content are led by the needs and experience of different groups within the general population.

Important BpB publications are: pamphlet series, information on civic education, the “Politics and Contemporary History” (Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte) insert in the weekly newspaper “Parlament” (Das Parlament) and the youth magazine “fl utter”. BpB event formats are conferences, congresses, festivals, fairs, exhibitions, study tours and visits, competitions, cinema seminars and cultural events plus in-service courses for journalists.

The BpB also sponsors events run by over 300 accredited civic education organisations throughout Germany in addition to its own programmes. It provides information and material for all interested parties. Its programmes are addressed both to civic education “facilitators” (i.e. individuals who have an effect on others in their civic commitment to clubs, associations, federations or in the field of education and the media), and directly to “users” such as adolescents and young adults.

**Land Centres for Civic Education** (Landeszenträlen für politische Bildung) are independent institutions in 15 individual Federal Länder under the Länder governments. They plan seminars, projects and publications on their own authority and make them accessible to the inhabitants of their respective Federal Länder.

The Federal Agency and the Land Centres for Civic Education share a common Internet information portal at www.politische-bildung.de.

**LÄNDER CENTRES FOR CIVIC EDUCATION**

**Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg**
Staffenbergerstr. 38, D–70184 Stuttgart,
Tel.: +49 711 164099–0, Fax: +49 711 164099–77,
E-Mail: lpb@lpb.bwue.de,
Internet: www.lpb.bwue.de

**Bayerische Landeszentrale für politische Bildungsarbeit**
Brienner Str. 41, D–80333 München,
Tel.: +49 89 2186–0, Fax: +49 89 2186–2180,
E-Mail: landeszentrale@stmuk.bayern.de,
Internet: www.politische-bildung-bayern.de

**Landeszentrale für politische Bildungsarbeit Berlin**
An der Urania 4–10, D–10787 Berlin,
Tel.: +49 30 9016–2552, Fax: +49 30 9016–2538,
E-Mail: landeszentrale@senbwf.berlin.de,
Internet: www.landeszentrale-politische-bildung-berlin.de

**Brandenburgische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung**
Heinrich-Mann-Allee 107, D–14473 Potsdam,
Tel.: +49 331 866–3543, Fax: +49 331 866–3544,
E-Mail: info@blzpb.brandenburg.de,
Internet: www.politische-bildung-brandenburg.de

**Landeszentrale politische Bildung Bremen**
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Tel.: +49 421 361–2922, Fax: +49 421 361–4453,
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Internet: www.lpzb-bremen.de

**Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Hamburg**
Steinstr. 7, D–20095 Hamburg,
Tel.: +49 40 42854–2148/–49,
Fax: +49 40 42854–2154,
E-Mail: politischebildung@bbs.hamburg.de,
Internet: www.politische-bildung.hamburg.de

**Hessische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung**
Taunusstr. 4–6, D–65183 Wiesbaden,
Tel.: +49 611 32–4051, Fax: +49 611 32–4077,
E-Mail: hlz@hlz.hessen.de,
Internet: www.hlz.hessen.de

**Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**
Jägerweg 2, D–19053 Schwerin,
Tel.: +49 385 3020901, Fax: +49 385 3020922,
E-Mail: poststelle@lpb.mv-regierung.de,
Internet: www.lpb.mv-regierung.de
Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge

(Federal Office for Migration and Refugees)

When the Immigration Act (Zuwanderungsgesetz) came into force on 1 January 2005, the former Federal Office for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees (Bundesamt für die Anerkennung ausländischer Flüchtlinge) was restructured under the name of Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge).

The Federal Office (BAMF) is the national centre of excellence for migration, integration and political asylum. Its mandate is highly varied. It rules on requests for political asylum and the protection of refugees from deportation. Another of its main duties is to promote and co-ordinate the integration of migrants in Germany in terms of language, social security and being full members of society.

It also takes care of increasing co-operation with its European partners in the asylum and migration sector. In this context, there is an exchange of people (liaison staff) between the Federal Office and partner agencies within the EU. The Federal Office serves as a contact point for time-limited protection when there is a mass influx of refugees.

Officials of the Federal Office rule on requests for asylum after hearing the applicant in person and conscientious examination of the stated grounds for asylum. They determine whether there is a rightful claim to asylum under
the terms of the Basic Law, whether the applicant enjoys the protection of the Geneva Convention on Refugees, or whether there is any ban on deportation to the target country under the provisions of the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz).

The Immigration Act, which came into force on 1 January 2005, brought with it additional duties for the Office. They include the development and execution of integration courses (language and orientation courses) for immigrants, the re-direction of initial migration counselling and sponsorship of projects for the social and societal integration of re-settlers and foreigners who are permanently resident in Germany. At the same time, it gives technical input to the Federal Government in the field of integration promotion.

Further activities of the Office are the provision of comprehensive information and the preparation of specific information materials both for immigrants and for immigration authorities, organisers of integration courses and other bodies involved in integration. In addition, the Federal Office maintains the Central Register of Foreigners and conducts research on migration issues in order to arrive at analytical statements for immigration regulation.

The Federal Office has its integration portal at www.integration-in-deutschland.de, where it supports the integration process by indicating target-group related services and opportunities. Immigrants, citizens interested in the subject and integration work players will all find all they need to know on integration, as well as the names of people to contact and contact addresses.

**Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk**  
(Federal Agency for Technical Relief)

Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk (THW)  
Provinzialstr. 93, D–53127 Bonn  
Tel.: +49 228 940–0, Fax: +49 228 940–8520  
E-Mail: poststelle.ltg@thw.de, Internet: www.thw.bund.de

The Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) is the Federal Government’s emergency standby and disaster protection agency. Since 1950, it has maintained specialised units in readiness for deployment according to the Government’s legal obligations for public safety and local disaster prevention. This structure is the only one of its kind in the world.

This government agency for emergency preparedness is a partner for people in need supported largely by volunteers. Around 80,000 citizens give up their free time to help other people in the 669 local THW associations all over Germany. The organisation dovetails with the work of fire brigades, other aid organisations and the local and the federal police forces to guarantee public
safety. In each of the 66 THW management areas, organised in eight regional associations (Landesverbände), the different components of the local associations complement each other in such a way that the full range of THW response is available anywhere in Germany, and it always has specialists in place where they are needed.

The THW also provides fast, reliable and effective emergency response on behalf of the German Government in countries outside Germany. The services provided by the THW range from immediate aid in an emergency to long-term partnership commitments for reconstruction. The THW has “rapid response units” to meet the time factor, for example in the tsunami disaster in South East Asia and the Pakistan earthquake. As a government organisation, the THW offers its clients (which include the United Nations, the European Union and governments of other nations) the additional certainty that projects will be implemented reliably and authoritatively.

The THW Youth (THW-Jugend) is an autonomous youth organisation, the youth branch of the Technisches Hilfswerk. It was founded in 1984 in Ahrweiler and now has a membership of about 15,500 children and teenagers in about 660 youth groups. Approximately 16 per cent are girls.

THW-Jugend is a youth organisation for children and adolescents from 10 to 17 who enjoy fun and excitement, have a feel for things technical and want to make friends under the motto “Playing, helping, learning”.

Its purpose is to guide children and adolescents towards the THW technical services through play, and to prepare them to help others in a responsible and effective manner. THW-Jugend organises youth camps and competitions from local to federal association level, sometimes with other youth organisations in Germany and other countries. They serve to establish contact between the individual youth groups and their young leaders, exchange experience and knowledge and nurture friendships.

As well as giving technical instruction, (e.g. how to build temporary bridges, transport injured people, provide lighting at the scene of an incident, etc.) which account for about a third of the annual programme, the emphasis is on general youth work. Appropriate and high-quality leadership by qualified youth leaders enhances this attractive nationwide leisure programme for the young generation. The encouragement of team spirit, social commitment and intercultural skills are firmly embedded in this youth work. The steady growth in the number of young volunteer helpers is evidence that the concept finds favour with boys and girls.
The Federal Office for Information Security (Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik BSI) was established by Federal Government in 1991. Its mission is “Secure IT for our society” (Sichere Informationstechnik für unsere Gesellschaft). Accordingly, the information and services offered by the BSI address both vendors and users of IT: the public administrations in Federal, Länder and local government, private enterprise and private users.

As well as IT security consultancy for public administration and verification and certification of security features in IT products and systems, the BSI also raises awareness and provides IT security information for private users, including young people. To this end, the agency in Bonn operates the Internet portal www.bsi-fuer-buerger.de and publishes warnings of online threats on www.buerger-cert.de. The BSI also works in co-operation with many German and European initiatives to promote better IT and Internet security.

Online Information from BSI

Surfing, E-mail, chat, blogs – computers and the Internet offer unprecedented scope for communication and information. Computers and mobile phones are equipped with more and more powerful features. A mobile phone is not just a telephone for making calls, sending text messages or surfing the Web. It takes photographs and makes video recordings, transmits and plays them back. These new technological gadgets have a special fascination for children and young people, who are some of the most active users of new communications technology.

These opportunities contrast, however, with certain dangers. Viruses, diallers or illegal and harmful content can penetrate anyone’s computer, and what started as a nice little chat in a forum turns into harassment or the theft and misuse of personal data.

The Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) has its own website at www.bsi-fuer-buerger.de, where it describes the dangers lurking on the Internet and gives information about safety precautions for adults and young people.
threats are explained in straightforward language with tips for safe Internet use and security software recommendations. Topics range from child protection, computer games, online chat rooms and making the most of mobile phones to home banking and internet shopping.

In case of acute Internet threats, “Citizens’ CERT” (short for Computer Emergency Response Team) sends a message by E-mail. It addresses primarily PC users with no IT technical background and explains gaps in security, gives hints, tells users how to overcome the problems and warns against the latest traps set by Internet tricksters. When the threat is particularly serious, a special issue of the newsletter goes out by E-mail. The regular issue goes out every two weeks on free subscription to www.buerger-cert.de.

For experts in the field of ICT (information and communications technology) and IT security, extensive technical information such as study results and technical regulations are available on the BSI web pages at www.bsi.bund.de.

**Bundesministerium der Justiz**
(Federal Ministry of Justice)

Bundesministerium der Justiz (BMJ)
Mohrenstr. 37, D–10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 18580–0, Fax: +49 30 18580–9525
E-Mail: poststelle@bmj.bund.de, Internet: www.bmj.de

**Bonn Office**
Adenauerallee 99–103, D–53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 99580–0, Fax: +49 228 99580–8325

The Government’s legal policy, executed by the Federal Ministry of Justice (Bundesministerium der Justiz, BMJ), has the central duty to secure and develop our state by the rule of law. The Ministry’s legislative work corresponds to this objective. It encompasses the preparation of new legislation, the modification or repeal of existing laws and the classic areas of jurisprudence such as civil, criminal, corporate and commercial law, intellectual and industrial property rights, as well as court constitution and procedural law, with the exception of employment and social welfare jurisdiction.

The ministry is also the “Department for the Constitution”. Together with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, its duty is to guarantee that government legislation is compatible with the Basic Law. This means that all draft Bills prepared by other ministries have to be checked by the Ministry of Justice for “Legal conformity”.

The Ministry is responsible in civil law for the regulation of the law of parent and child, maintenance of dependents, adoption and laws governing people’s
names. The **law of parent and child** covers family descent, parental custody and access rights. Two important aspects of parental custody and access are the regulations in place to ensure the protection of children from maltreatment or neglect, and arrangements for legal relationships after separation or divorce. The guiding principle in all legal arrangements is to place the well-being of the child at the top of the priorities list.

Criminal law includes the aspects of this section of the law with relevance to youth. The Ministry's Directorate-General for Criminal Law of, there is a division for **“Juvenile Criminal Law”** to concentrate in particular on issues related to the “Juvenile Courts Act”, which is at the **centre of codified juvenile criminal law**. Within the very wide range of the Ministry's legal regulatory work, this includes not only the consequences of juvenile and adolescent crime and the juvenile court structures, but also issues of juvenile court procedure and probation for the young offender. In addition, it has responsibility for issues such as “Youth Services for Young Offenders” and “Crime prevention with reference to juveniles and adolescents”.

Among the work done in the areas of law listed above, the Ministry drafts parliamentary bills within its remit or joins with other ministries in drafting their bills; it is an observatory and communication channel for legal practice and the relevant academic circles, so that it can detect any need for legislative action in the early stages and extrapolate criteria for setting the direction; it is a “clearing house” for the *Länder* judiciaries and academic associations; and last but not least, it is involved in the formation of political will in the field of law.


The Commissioner is a member of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Human Rights and other committees working for the improvement of human rights. She also prepares the national status reports on several UN human rights conventions, and she is a member of the Board of Governors of the German Institute for Human Rights and the Advisory Council of the Human Rights Centre in Potsdam. She works with NGOs on human rights issues.

One focal point of Federal Government policy and the Ministry's work is the fight against violent right-wing extremism, racism and xenophobia. The state has a duty to protect human rights, but it is also a matter of concern to every man and woman, association and organisation within the state. Many
organisations have joined together to form an **Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance – against Extremism and Violence** (Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz – gegen Extremismus und Gewalt).

The Ministry is in charge of publishing the German Federal Law Gazette (Bundesgesetzblatt) and Federal Gazette (Bundesanzeiger).

The Federal Ministry of Justice (www.bmj.de) has a joint project with juris GmbH, Saarbrücken, which posts the texts of laws on the Internet for the benefit of any private citizens who are interested.

**Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie**

(Bundes Ministry of Economics and Technology)

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie (BMWi)
Scharnhorststr. 34–37, D–10115 Berlin
Postal Address: D–11019 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 18615–0, Fax: +49 30 18615–7010
E-Mail: info@bmwi.bund.de, Internet: www.bmwi.de

**Bonn Office**

Villemombler Str. 76, D–53123 Bonn
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The central mission of the Ministry of Economics and Technology (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie, BMWi) is to lay the foundation for economic prosperity in Germany with the broadest participation of all citizens, and to build a modern system of economic relations. This mission breaks down into various goals which direct specific political actions, e.g.

- long-term growth and competitive opportunities for Germany as a base for business,
- high employment,
- assuring the next generations of specialists,
- helping to strengthen SMEs,
- helping to advance new technologies and innovation to maintain the economy’s competitiveness,
- combining economic and ecological goals,
- enhancing global division of labour and free trade all over the world,
- pro-actively controlling the transition from an industrial society to a knowledge-based information society,
- securing reliable energy supplies at reasonable prices.
Thus, the mandate for the BMWi is to establish and improve the conditions for economic activity on the basis of personal and entrepreneurial freedom, competition and stability. Its legislative, administrative and co-ordinating powers are aligned with these functions e. g. in competition and European, SMEs, vocational education, energy or foreign trade policy.

A policy guided by the principles of a Social Market Economy has proved its worth, particularly in difficult phases of economic development. Economic policy must, if it is geared to the future, secure long-term perspectives for higher employment in German industry.

A forward-looking vocational education policy for the future is an essential reinforcement of Germany’s capability for international innovation and competition. The government department in charge of administering the Federal Vocational Education Act (Berufsbildungsgesetz) is the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. However, the Act contains some provisions (sections 4 et seqq.,), which state that the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology may grant state recognition and issue training regulations for defined occupations.

An important part of work of the Ministry (BMWi) is to develop, with others, important vocational education policies, e.g. preparing reform concepts, projects for the transition from school to working life, and representing government in national and international vocational education bodies. In addition, the Ministry defines and enacts the rules governing vocational training in approximately 310 industrial occupations and master craftsmen’s examinations.

The master craftsman’s examination (Meisterprüfung) is key to advancement in trades and craft occupations. It is one of the most important pre-requisites for setting up in business, as well as being a seal of quality with which firms can advertise and gain a competitive edge on markets. The “National Pact for Vocational Training and Junior Professionals in Germany” supports the creation of new traineeships, so that every young person who is able and willing to undergo an apprenticeship can find a career opening.

In the field of SME policy and establishing new businesses, the Ministry funds the JUNIOR Project. This is a project run by the Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln under the patronage of the BMWi, in which school pupils are guided towards entrepreneurial thinking and action. 10 to 15 young people in 9th grade establish a mini-company for one school year. JUNIOR aims to teach young people key skills such as team-working, the ability to run a project, skills in planning and encouragement to set up in business. There is an award for the best mini-companies at national and international level each year.

In co-operation with the KfW Mittelstandsbank, the BMWi has launched an initiative to establish university professorships in entrepreneurship. The objective is to create courses of study in entrepreneurship at universities across Germany. There are now 62 chairs, to which 50 professors have been appointed so far. Focus Online and the BMWi have established a joint Internet
Start-up Academy (www.existenzgruender.de). It informs would-be entrepreneurs through all the phases of setting up their own business, from the initial idea, drafting a business plan, market analysis and financing through to crisis management.

Information about defined apprenticeship occupations and tips for traineeship applications are available on the Ministry’s website at www.bmwi.de.

Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales (Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)

Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales (BMAS)
Wilhelmstr. 49, D–10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 18527–0, Fax: +49 30 18527–1830
E-Mail: poststelle@bmas.bund.de, Internet: www.bmas.bund.de

Bonn Office
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The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales, BMAS) came into existence with an Organisational Decree of 22 November 2005, which transferred responsibilities from the former Federal Ministries for Economics and Labour and Health and Social Security. The new Ministry is responsible in the main for employment policy, employment of foreigners, unemployment benefits, subsistence and supplementary benefit for job seekers, employment law, industrial safety, statutory social security insurance, pension insurance, social compensation, the interests of people with disabilities, rehabilitation, social benefit and social integration, employment and social security tribunals and jurisdiction, and European and international employment and social security policy.

Employment and social integration for foreigners is one of the areas of the Ministry’s responsibility. Another is employment law and industrial safety, which covers the law of employment contracts, collective employment law including works constitution (Betriebsverfassung) and co-determination, collective bargaining law, employment jurisdiction and tribunals, technical industrial safety, occupational medicine, working hours, protection of young persons at work and the humanisation of workplaces.

The Federal Labour Court, the Federal Social Court, the Federal Office of Insurance and the Federal Institute of Industrial Safety and Occupational Medicine fall under the direct responsibility of the BMAS. It is also the legal regulator of the Federal Employment Agency.
The BMAS is the legal regulatory authority of the statutory pension and accident funds subordinate to the Federal Office of Insurance (Bundesversicherungsamt): German Federal Old-Age Insurance (Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund), German Old-Age Insurance for Miners, Railway and Seafaring Personnel (Deutsche Rentenversicherung Knappschaft-Bahn-See), Federal Accident Insurance Agency (Unfallkasse des Bundes) and other accident insurance organisations like the farmers’ pension fund, which report directly to Federal Government.

The German Federal Government adopted the goal of making long-term improvements to the **vocational education and employment opportunities for all young people** and reducing youth unemployment permanently. No young person should remain unemployed for longer than three months in future.

The Employment Agencies’ active promotion of work under the terms of Book III of the Social Code (SGB III) helps to integrate, in particular, young people with disabilities or social disadvantages.

The integration of young people into the training and employment market is also given outstanding priority under **Book II of the Social Code** (SGB II) (valid since 1 January 2005). The Act governs the cost-of-living benefits for job seekers who are able to work but need help. Young people under 25 who are able to work but in need of help must be provided with a job or vocational training without delay after applying for benefit, or opportunities to gain work experience must be procured for them. They are allocated a personal contact who offers intensive support for integration into training or employment and comprehensive assistance in finding somewhere to live, debt and addiction counselling, on the basis of a generous time allowance of 1:75. The young person’s part of this intensive care bargain is compliance with an integration agreement, which describes the client’s personal input on the basis of “support and empowerment”.

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Federal Employment Agency initiated the **German Award for Youth in Employment** (Deutscher Förderpreis Jugend in Arbeit) in 2005. This national competition offers distinction for projects, concepts and initiatives that facilitate a start in employment for young recipients of unemployment benefit II (Arbeitslosengeld II). The prize is total fixed-purpose funding of EUR 3.4 million granted by the Ministry and the Agency for the best projects. Voluntary organisations, private enterprise, networks/initiatives and joint ventures/local or regional Employment Agencies, or local authorities that have opted to take charge of action for the long-term unemployed themselves are eligible to take part in the competition. 1,572 ideas were entered. The awards for the best in each of four categories were announced in January and February 2006 at Länder level, and the national final and award ceremony was held in Berlin on 2 May 2006. The competition for “Youth in Employment” will continue to boost efforts for the integration of young people in need of help and will be held again in future.
The Federal Government and the German national federations of commerce and industry signed the “National Pact for Vocational Training and Junior Professionals in Germany” (Nationaler Pakt für Ausbildung und Fachkräfte-nachwuchs in Deutschland) on 16 June 2004. The signatories to this binding agreement undertake to jointly co-operate with the Länder governments in providing vocational training opportunities for every young person able and willing to take them, attaching priority to the existing dual system of training. This is to include young people whose chances of employment are limited, and give them prospects of a start in vocational training and a career.

As a flanking measure for its pact partners’ efforts, the Federal Government has a special programme of initial qualification for young people. Under this programme, employers can claim reimbursement of up to EUR 192 from the job centres (employment agencies) plus blanket cover of social security contributions if they take on a young person for training or employment. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has extended the programme until 2010 and raised the number of places to 40,000. The results of research done concurrently with the programme show that the policy of initial qualification is an additional incentive for young people finding it difficult to find employment on the job market, and it has been well received by both employers and young people. Young employees who receive initial qualification for work in a firm have a very good chance of being offered an apprenticeship in the same firm.

If Germany wants to reinforce its innovative and competitive capabilities, a vocational education policy geared to the future is essential. In this context, the important actions include sharing the work of developing major vocational policy projects, such as the preparation of reform concepts, the encouragement of further vocational education for career enhancement, and the representation of the Ministry in national and international vocational training bodies.

One of the laws with relevance for youth that falls within the remit of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is the Protection of Young People at Work Act (Jugendarbeitsschutzgesetz) of 1976 in the latest revised version of 31st October 2006. Industrial safety is even more important for children and adolescents than for adults. Young people are less robust and cannot be expected to tolerate as much stress and strain as adults. The Protection of Young Persons at Work Act and the Protection of Children at Work Ordinance (Kinderarbeitsschutzverordnung) of 1998 protect children against having to start work too early, endure long hours, and from work that is too heavy or unsuitable or could be harmful to them.

Protection under the Act covers all young people under 18, irrespective of their position as trainees, apprentices or workers. Young people (from 15 to 17) are not allowed to work more than eight hours per day, and not more than 40 hours per week. Their working week must not exceed 5 days.
The Act prohibits the employment of children under 15 and adolescents in full-time school education. Full-time schooling is compulsory in some Federal Länder until the end of grade 9, in others until grade 10. Children over 13 may be employed in a limited manner under strict conditions. The type of work that is allowed is described in the Protection of Children at Work Act.

The individual Federal Länder are responsible for the enforcement of the Protection of Young Persons at Work Act and of the Protection of Children at Work Ordinance. The Land executive agencies responsible for industrial safety are, for instance, the industrial inspectorates, industrial safety offices. The industrial safety authorities also have a supervisory function for compliance and provide an advisory service to those concerned.

Statutory accident insurance for children attending day centres and when being looked after by proper day carers, for schoolchildren attending general and vocational schools and colleges, and for students during their studies, is also part of the remit of the BMAS.

Accident insurance for the groups listed above is anchored in section 2 subs. 1 No. 8 of Book VII of the Social Code (SGB VII) of 7 August 1996. The relevant insurers are the statutory insurance funds (Industrial Accident Funds, Local Authority Accident Insurance Societies). It is their duty to exercise all suitable means in accordance with the individual provisions of the Act to prevent accidents and other health hazards in the relevant institutions and, if an accident occurs, to restore the health and fitness of the child or adolescent by all available means and, if necessary, to compensate them with financial benefits (lifelong pension).

The co-ordination and contact point for the relevant public accident insurance funds is the Central Federation of Public Sector Accident Insurers (Bundesverband der Unfallkassen, Fockensteinstr. 1, D–81539 München, Tel.: +49 89 622720).

Disability policy may also have relevance for children and young people. Possible issues are equal opportunities, equal treatment and support for people with special needs, medical and occupational rehabilitation and the rights of people with severe disabilities. A further focus is social security and the integration of people with special needs. The purpose of all the measures in this sector is to enable equal participation in the life of the community.

Children and young people with disabilities have special needs regarding assistance towards achieving self-determination, to give them equal opportunities and enable them to participate socially as required by Book IX of the Social Code – Rehabilitation and Participation of Persons with Disabilities – SGB IX).

The planning and implementation of support for children with disabilities involves both them and their parents very profoundly. Wherever possible, services are usually arranged to avoid separation from the child's social environment, and their care assures the greatest possible degree of integration. Thus,
early detection and early coaching are delivered as a composite service so that medical care, psychological support and special teaching can be linked together. A network of about 120 paediatric social centres for early treatment exists for this purpose; some are residential and others out-patient or mobile.

For pre-school children with severe and multiple disabilities, therapeutic teaching services are delivered by the responsible social security sponsors irrespective of income or wealth. If the requisite assistance cannot be provided by the school, the social security agencies will also fund “assistance for appropriate school education”, for instance the cost of a personal carer at school to support the integrated teaching of children with disabilities.

Individuals over 18 with special needs receive social security benefit according to Book XII of the Social Code (SGB XII) if they are unable to earn their own living. The purpose of benefit is to enable people who find themselves in a situation of need to regain control of their life as soon as possible if they are unable to manage without support. Social security benefit is help for self-help and may be given in form of money, goods or services.

Social security benefit distinguishes between subsistence allowance or the basic old-age pension, and a supplement for reduced ability to work. In both cases, the benefit is means-dependent and amounts to the same sums. In the case of the basic subsistence allowance, the parents or children of benefit recipients may be required to reimburse the cost of benefit.

Trainees whose training falls under the educational grant law Federal Education and Training Assistance Act (Bundesausbildungsförderungsge-setz, BAFöG) or is defined in Book III of the Social Code on the promotion of employment (SGB III) as “eligible in principle for assistance”, have no claim to benefit under SGB XII. This means that it is immaterial whether the trainee actually receives a grant or not. If the person's particular situation is one of special needs unconnected with the training itself, (e.g. pregnancy) or in case of special hardship, the social security benefit can intervene and provide support. The Social Welfare Office (Sozialamt) with responsibility for the case will decide on its merits.

The scope of SGB XII is much narrower than that of the former Federal Social Benefit Act. People with special needs who are capable of working, including young people from age 15, and their relatives, no longer have a claim to social benefit, even if the latter are unable to work. In case of special needs, they can claim benefit under Book II of the Social Code (SGB II).

Sharing in the work of the European Employment Strategy (Luxembourg Process) and developing employment policy guidelines is another of the BMAS’s duties. The guidelines will influence national employment policy when implemented in the annual national action plans (NAPs). Youth is a central target group, and children are implicated in action for better co-ordination of family and work, which is one of the goals of the employment policy guidelines.
After the European Council in Lisbon, the strands of the employment policy guidelines, which relate to general and vocational education, were drawn together. The member states are expected to develop a comprehensive and coherent strategy for lifelong learning to give people the fundamental qualification for the job market.

In this context, the BMAS also works on topics of general and vocational education. The European Council passed a resolution in Lisbon in 2000 in favour of a competitive knowledge-based economy with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

Some of the EU regulation projects which fall under the Ministry’s remit concern young people, for instance the Equal Opportunities Directive. This regulates equal access for men and women to vocational training and the job market.

The BMAS works in EU bodies on the employment guidelines, drafts the action plans and implements them.

In the field of general and vocational education, the BMAS pursues Germany’s activities at European level and co-ordinates them with the objectives of the employment strategy. Conversely, it is in close touch with the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, which is the lead ministry for education.

The BMAS draws up the national action plans and co-ordinates the different measures in this sector. This function requires close co-operation with other ministries. The BMAS works intensively in European committees on directives and regulations.

The European Union’s employment policy guidelines (not legally binding like a law) note as follows:

- Adolescents are a special target group for common efforts to reduce and avoid unemployment. For instance, every unemployed adolescent should have the opportunity for a new start before he/she has been out of work for 6 months.
- Young people should receive basic qualification for the job market.

Other guidelines on social integration, equal opportunities for women and men or the promotion of self-employment are also have important implications for young people.

The BMAS helps to select projects under the EU Leonardo programme, which gives funding support for vocational training projects.

The BMAS administers the European Social Fund (ESF) in Germany. This fund supports and supplements the activities of Member States in developing the employment and human resources market in various policy areas. One area of advocacy is support for the vocational integration of young people, for instance by promoting apprenticeship and preparatory training (teaching and improvement of basic skills).
The European Social Fund is implemented at national level in the form of grants to individuals channelled through the Federal Employment Agency, and thus via the respective regional and local Employment Agencies. Another part is fed in via the framework of Ländere projects through their government ministries.

The implementation of federal ESF funds goes through the BMAS and the Federal Employment Agency, and also the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The latter ministries implement projects of their own to a small extent and are represented in the planning and facilitation committees of the European Social Funds.

The XENOS programme run by the BMAS is highlighted as the model youth-relevant programme. XENOS pursues the goal of combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance by taking specific action. In particular, it addresses adolescents who are conspicuous through hostile behaviour and thinking towards foreigners or who appear amenable to such ideas.

At the beginning of each new school year, the BMAS issues up-to-date policy information in co-operation with the Youth and Education Working Group (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugend und Bildung e. V. - www.jugend-und-bildung.de). It is made available in a media package on social policy. The areas covered are: basic principles of social policy, health, social security insurance, working life and life in Europe. The media package comprises four elements: a workbook for school students, teacher’s book, overhead transparencies and the internet platform www.sozialpolitik.com. The package is addressed to young people (from secondary school stage 1/junior high school) and can be used for private study or in a classroom setting. In parallel, a monthly social policy topic is prepared and made available for use in teaching.

Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection)

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The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz, BMELV) is in charge of the Government’s work in the fields of nutrition, food safety, animal, plant and forest cultivation, fisheries policy, development of rural areas, social security, market policy and consumer protection. The BMELV co-ordinates and represents the interests of Federal and Länder governments within the scope of its powers at the European and international levels. The development of rural areas, promotion of regenerative raw materials and assuring the high quality of food are some of the main focal issues in recent agricultural and food policy. The new consumer politics centre on educated consumers on an equal footing with business.

The BMELV supports rural youth associations (Landjugendverbände) in organising central federal information events. The young farmers’ associations are the focus for young people in rural areas to commit to voluntary activities. This is a contribution to improving the quality of life and the organisation of society in rural areas.

An International Workshop for Managers of Rural Youth Work commissioned by the BMELV is attended by so-called “multipliers” from over 50 countries, who facilitate rural youth work.

BMELV is the regulator and source of the rules for initial and advanced vocational training in agricultural occupations. As agriculture becomes more globalised and more standardisation and regulation comes through, the importance of assuring high qualification for both skilled and management workers is growing. Sound vocational training for young entrants to the sector is a prerequisite for subsequent career success and the future prospects of the individual, and thus for the success of German agri-business in international competition. At the same time, vocational training lays the foundations for the life-long learning demanded of everyone nowadays.

The BMELV funds vocational competitions for trainees in agricultural occupations. Competitions are a key element of vocational training and personality development among young skilled workers and managers. The BMELV traditionally uses many means to encourage the exchange of young agricultural workers/professionals and students. An important effect of these on-going training incentives is to build up long-term contacts with the German agricultural industry.

The Ministry funds and supports enjoyable, balanced and sustainable nutrition in Germany with its food policy. Information and public education campaigns appropriate to the target/age groups are employed to enable people to improve their well-being, promote good health and add to their quality of life through what they eat each day from an early age and in different situations:
- The Ministry has made children’s eating habits a focus for action. The initiative “Eat better, exercise better – CHILD’s PLAY” (Besser essen. Mehr
THE FEDERAL LEVEL

bewegen. KINDERLEICHT) is designed as a preventive measure against the increasing level of child obesity. Since the campaign was launched, selected measures have been funded by the Ministry such as nutrition in schools, kindergartens and child care centres, and nutrition in the family (www.kinder-leicht.net/kampagne.html).

- The “FIT KID: Healthy Eating for Day-Care Centres” (FIT KID: Die Gesund-Essen-Aktion für Kitas”) informs those in charge of day-care institutions about a balanced diet and nutritional education for children. In addition to information for educators, special importance is attached to involving parents as well. The BIOKids Tour emphasises the themes of eating and exercise. BIOcooks visit schools to motivate pupils and teachers to include the issue of balanced diets and a generous portion of exercise in the school routine.

- Quality assurance for school meals is the objective of the campaign entitled “School + Eating = Top Marks” (Schule + Essen = Note 1) because school is the place where children and adolescents can most easily be made enthusiastic about nutrition and take their first steps towards establishing their own diet.

- The “aid – nutritional skills certificate” (aid-Ernährungsführerschein) is a sort of driving course on nutrition. Instruction is given in schools and rewarded with a certificate to say that the pupils are experts in handling groceries and able to prepare basic meals on their own. The German Rural Women’s Association (Deutscher Landfrauenverband) will be in charge of running the nutrition certificate scheme in primary schools in Germany from the 2007/8 academic year.

- The Spot fit competition for children and adolescents from 3 to 13 will demonstrate that healthy eating is cool. It is organised jointly by the BMELV and KI.KA (the children’s TV channel, a joint venture of the public broadcasting union ARD and the Second Channel ZDF). The entrants have to act as advertising strategists and design posters and advertising spots for balanced diets and plenty of exercise (http://www.talkingfood.de/spotfit).

- Healthy eating should not end with childhood and adolescence, however, but should “keep on growing”. The project “Eating and Performance at Work” (Verpfl egung und Leistungsfähigkeit im Berufsalltag) is a holistic eating concept for working people which aims to make them consider eating not only as a necessary act of taking in food, but also as health promotion and keeping up their strength for work.

- The Fit in old age (Fit im Alter) programme helps people to maintain their quality of life well into old age with balanced diets adapted to their particular needs. The information offered is not only for older men and women who make their own meals, but also for carers and kitchen staff in institutions and providers of meals on wheels.
Many adolescents nowadays are afflicted in early life with allergies of many different kinds and other intolerances. To help explain them and offer better help, the BMELV has launched an action plan against allergies. As well as general prevention, it offers assistance in avoiding new sensitisation through allergens in food, hygiene products, clothing and other everyday articles.

**Bundesministerium der Verteidigung**  
(Federal Ministry of Defence)

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The Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany requires that “Men from the age of 18 may be called up for compulsory service in the armed forces”. This means that every man has to serve under arms from his 18th birthday.

Since 1 January 2001, women have also allowed been to serve in the armed forces. This goes back to a ruling by the European Court of Justice on 11 January 2000 in favour of a young German woman, stating that the Basic Law was not consistent with the principle of equality between men and women. Whereas women had previously been allowed to serve as soldiers only in the military medical service or in military bands, this restriction no longer applies.

The duration of basic national service has been nine months since January 2002. The German Army’s ability to deliver its services in operation has been based mainly on the skills and qualification brought with the servicemen from school or vocational training when they are recruited to the armed forces.

Servicemen (and women) are especially important to the Federal Armed Forces (Bundeswehr) for another reason: about 40 per cent of the professional members of the armed forces are former national servicemen. There are a number of reasons why compulsory service recruits join up for longer periods, among them the interesting work, comradeship and good promotion prospects.

www.bundeswehr.de is the website of the Federal Armed Forces (Bundeswehr). Extra information is available for adolescents aged 14 to 17 at www.treff.bundeswehr.de. These are special web pages with interactive features, games, downloads and chats.
The Bundeswehr provides information for adolescents from the age of 14 on the fundamental issues of Germany's security and defence policies. 94 youth officers are available across the country to interact with young people as authentic soldiers and experts in matters of national security and the army, mainly through schools. By agreement with the Ministers of Education of the Länder, the youth officers come to the classroom on invitation from the schools.

Youth officers give information about current developments in NATO and EU security policy and discuss many other different topics such as overseas operations by the Federal Armed Forces, national service, the wider notion of security in the meaning of a networked security policy, the perspectives for “European Security and Defence Policy” and the transformation of the Federal Armed Forces. Youth officers arrange contact with serving soldiers by organising visits to the troops for school groups, and special seminars at which school pupils play the part of politicians and learn about complex political processes. The simulation of “Politics and International Security” (POL&IS) is an interactive learning format to demonstrate the vitality of politics during a 3 to 5-day seminar. National and international economic, political and security relations are the modules of the POL&IS format. This form of “hands-on politics” is increasingly popular with pupils and teachers. Youth officers also offer security policy seminars for school pupils and teachers.

Peace and security policy concerns every one of us. The “peace and security” teaching materials (www.frieden-und-sicherheit.de) can help to give insight into the increasingly important issues of international co-operation in the most varied areas of politics. Learning materials for students, lesson preparation aids for teachers and the student workbook entitled “Peace and Security” can be obtained directly on the Internet. The web page also has links to major Internet addresses on peace and security policy.

**Subordinate Agencies and Structures**

**Bundeswehr-Sozialwerk**  
(Social Services of the Federal Armed Forces)

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The Social Services of the Federal Armed Forces (Bundeswehr-Sozialwerk, BwSW) was founded on 20 May 1960 by the Federal Minister of Defence of the
day. It is a charitable, not-for-profit association. Its purpose as stated in the Statutes is:

- Family welfare for service men and women, officials and employees,
- Youth leisure activities and youth camps,
- Youth exchanges with friendly armed forces,
- Leisure programmes for mothers/fathers with children,
- Leisure programmes for “young men”,
- Leisure programmes for senior citizens,
- Programmes for people with disabilities.

The Social Services of the Federal Armed Forces adopt activities in the interest of the services and complement the employer’s duty of care.

Supervised **youth leisure programmes and youth camps** are offered in Germany for children and adolescents from six to 17 years of age. They are organised by the Social Services of the Federal Armed Forces to give children and adolescents, especially from low-income families, the chance of a holiday in suitable recreational camps and institutions, with the focus on healthy living, exploring the culture of the destination area, sports and making new friends.

**International youth recreation** is offered under the auspices of CLIMS. This stands for Comité de Liaison des Organismes Militaires Sociaux, the umbrella federation of similar associations in friendly and allied armed forces in twelve countries: France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Germany.

Bi-national and multi-national leisure programmes for youngsters aged 15 to 17 in this setting include:

- Franco-German holidays,
- German-Belgian holidays,
- German-Polish holidays,
- Franco-German-Italian holidays,
- German-Spanish-French holidays,
- CLIMS Camps in different places in the CLIMS countries.

The purpose of **international youth work** is to promote better understanding and co-operation across national borders by bringing together people from different countries to share experiences together.

International understanding challenges young people to put themselves in the shoes of someone from a different language, culture and social background, and thereby become better acquainted with themselves. In the light of globalisation, this objective is growing in significance.

The federal management of the Social Services of the Federal Armed Forces is in charge of the planning and realisation of the international youth programmes.
The Trouble Children in Bundeswehr Families (Sorgenkinder in Bundeswehrfamilien) gives non-bureaucratic help for Federal Armed Forces members’ children with mental or physical disabilities. It fills the gap where the healthcare funds do not reimburse all the costs and neither the state nor charitable organisations can help. Among other things, four three-week holidays per year are organised for a total of 100 adolescents with disabilities. The holidays are run under the supervision of trained carers and doctors in suitable special institutions. There is almost one carer to each child so that all-round care is possible.

Bundesministerium für Gesundheit
(Federal Ministry of Health)

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The Federal Ministry of Health (Bundesministerium für Gesundheit, BMG) has many different areas of political responsibility. Among its central tasks are the maintenance, securing and development of the statutory health and chronic nursing funds’ ability to function. Thus, the Federal Ministry of Health occupies a central position in our state social system. Another focus for the Ministry is preventive healthcare. The Ministry of Health, together with its institutes, helps to analyse the situation, promote healthy living and healthcare and to safeguard against health hazards.

In Statutory Healthcare Insurance (Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung – Book V of the Social Code), children and adolescents are insured with their parents without extra charge up until they are 18. They are entitled to certain benefits in addition to the general benefits. By contrast with adults, children and adolescents are entitled to visual aids (spectacles, etc.) The funds also pay for non-prescription medications for children under twelve. Medical preventive and rehabilitation benefit can be delivered in the form of mother/father-and-child programmes in suitable institutions. Insured persons under 20 are entitled to contraceptives paid for by their insurance on prescription by a doctor. For children under twelve with chronic conditions or who are gravely ill, socio-medical follow-up care may be provided or funded on leaving hospital. The
insurance may also fund rehabilitation to reduce the length of hospital stay or to back up subsequent out-patient medical treatment.

In addition, children and adolescents under 18 are not required to pay the cash charges, for instance when visiting their doctor (known as the “surgery charge”) or when admitted to hospital for treatment, preventive measures or rehabilitation, prescription charges for medicines and dressings, medical appliances and equipment, or for home nursing.

Patterns of health-related behaviours are established in childhood and adolescence that persist into adulthood. Many disorders in early life can become risk factors for serious illnesses in later life. This is why it is so important to teach children about health as early as possible, to strengthen their health awareness and create healthy conditions for living and learning.

The BMG and its subordinate agency, the Federal Centre for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung BZgA) fund numerous target-group-specific health education and health promotion campaigns for children and adolescents. The BZgA database for Women’s health and health promotion provides information, for example to girls on subjects like eating disorders.

**Exercise and diet** are elementary influences on health. It is particularly important for children to practise behaviour patterns in their early years because these are often retained for the rest of the individual’s life. Sufficient active exercise and a balanced diet are essential for healthy physical, mental and social development in children and adolescents. The BMG, together with the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), organised a conference on “Preventive Healthcare, Diet and Exercise – the Key to Better Quality of Life” (Gesundheitliche Prävention. Ernährung und Bewegung – Schlüssel für mehr Lebensqualität) during the German Presidency of the EU Council in the first half of 2007.

The places where children live and learn, apart from the family home, are day centres and schools. In this respect, they are the ideal environment for health promotion. The German Forum for Preventive Healthcare and Health Promotion (Deutsches Forum Prävention und Gesundheitsförderung), established in 2002 on the initiative of the Federal Minister of Health, focuses its work in these areas and has appointed a sub-committee especially for “Healthy Kindergartens and Schools”. Currently, the German Forum groups together 71 associations and organisations with relevance for preventive healthcare on a common platform to agree on, launch and communicate shared objectives, content, campaigns and instruments. It is funded by the BMG.

The “Healthy Kindergartens and Schools” task group is agreed that exercise, diet, coping with stress and smoking are its priority issues. It develops consensus-based recommendations and quality standards for healthy children’s day care centres and (all-day) schools and presents examples of good
practice for health promotion in these settings. In October 2005, the German Forum organised the “Health(y) Learning in Children's Day Care Centres and Schools” (GesundLernen in Kindertagesstätte und Schule) to emphasise the links between health and education.

**Screening examinations of babies and young children** under the provisions of section 26 of Book V of the Social Code (SGB V) are a function of general preventive healthcare. They have been in place since 1971 and have proved themselves a successful instrument of early detection of diseases and anomalies that could impair children’s physical or mental development. Early detection examinations is very well accepted by the public. Nine examinations are scheduled from birth to the age of six, and one more after the age of ten.

The BMG has funded innovative projects to raise the number of people bringing their children for screening. Many health insurance funds are also committed to raising the attendance level, for instance by linking bonus programmes to screening. The children's early detection screening programme is currently under review by the joint federal committee and will be supplemented if necessary.

A central area of responsibility for the Ministry is **addiction and drugs policy**. Education, prevention and damage limitation are the essential goals in addition to improving the help available to addicts and drug users. The position of the Commissioner for Drugs is thus attached directly to the Federal Ministry of Health. The Commissioner for Drugs is supported in her work by the Drugs and Addiction Council (Drogen- und Suchtrat), which is made up of high-ranking representatives from various ministries, scientific research facilities and NGOs.

Dependency problems are an enormous healthcare and socio-political challenge for our society. In Germany, people with this kind of problem are entitled to receive help, and there is a highly differentiated system of assistance in response. The **Drugs and Addiction Report** is published annually, showing the major trends in this context and the different measures for addressing addiction problems.

The **Robert Koch Institute** (RKI) presented the initial results of a three-year nationwide survey of children and adolescents (KiGGS) in September 2006. The data acquired during the study give a broad-based overview of the state of health of children and youth in Germany. The RKI has developed an epoch-making concept with KiGGS. The information already available enables statements to be made about what makes children ill or what protection factors exist. Prevention strategies developed on the basis of these data can be tailored to specific target groups. The KiGGS survey has its own website at [www.kiggs.de](http://www.kiggs.de).

The KiGGS data indicate that accidents are the number one health risk for children. Accordingly, the BMG is funding the **Safe Kids Germany** (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft “Mehr Sicherheit für Kinder”). One of its principal tasks is...
to create networks and exchange experience among the parties involved. The issue of accidents to children is to be given a higher public profile and anchored in the minds of parents and children. Children’s Safety Day on 10 June each year provides a suitable forum for this purpose. Safe Kids Germany delivered “Recommendations for the Further Development of Accident Prevention for Children in Germany”. The aim of the recommendations is to achieve a systematic and continuous reduction in the number of accidents to children in Germany. Accident prevention for children will have a higher priority in society, and cross-departmental, networked and more intensive accident prevention work will be initiated throughout the country.

The Federal Centre for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung, BZgA) has built up a freely accessible Internet database on the “Prevention of Accidents to Children in Germany” as part of a cooperation project with the Safe Kids Germany. It gives a structured overview of what institutions are active in what field of accident prevention for children in Germany, thus offering an important platform for information and networking. The BZgA has also published the booklet “Protecting Children – Preventing Accidents” (Kinder schützen – Unfälle verhüten), a guide for parents on accident prevention in childhood.

Children need a suitable environment conducive to living a healthy life. Several ministries and Federal Government agencies are co-operating in the Environment and Health Action Programme (Aktionsprogramm Umwelt und Gesundheit, APUG) to achieve this objective. This is a programme for networking environmental, health and consumer protection policies. All these sectors have been concentrating their joint efforts on children since 2003, with priority being given to education about the links between environmental burdens and health impacts. Thus, a special website for children has been set up at www.kinderwelt.org, and examples of activities to improve children’s immediate environment in terms of health promotion and the ecology are demonstrated in cities and local communities. APUG enhances the classic division of labour by the Ministries of Health and the Environment. Information about projects and results from APUG are available on www.apug.de.
**Subordinate Agencies and Structures**

**Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung**
(Federal Centre for Health Education)

Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung (BZgA)
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Health promotion and disease prevention are the main objectives of the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA). It is a specialist agency under the Federal Ministry of Health and, as such, develops health education strategies and implements them through individual programmes and campaigns. In so doing, it adopts a holistic, true to life approach aimed at strengthening personal responsibility and the individual man or woman’s health-related competence. It offers knowledge, motivation for healthy living and support for health-related action.

The BZgA works with partners in the Federal Government, the individual Länder governments, local authorities and scientific institutions. It has built up a monitoring system to verify whether its campaigns are working and to monitor their development. This system delivers necessary information about the development of knowledge, attitudes and behaviour patterns in relation to the respective health issues, reveals how campaigns are perceived and taken up by the public, and discusses the need for action resulting from these facts.

The central areas of concern for the BZgA are
- AIDS education,
- addiction prevention,
- health promotion for children and adolescents,
- sex education and family planning
- organ donation, and
- the development of quality assurance tools for preventive healthcare and health promotion.

The BZgA attaches particular importance to reaching out to people in difficult situations because they are in special need of preventive action and health promotion. Outreach is also needed to deal with health-related behaviour patterns and diseases among children and adolescents. The BZgA has built up a nationwide co-operation network of “Health Promotion for the Socially Disadvantaged” (Gesundheitsförderung bei sozial Benachteiligten), which works across the country by disseminating good practice healthcare and welfare projects (documentation of approximately 2,800 projects).
Information for children and teenagers can be found on the following websites.

- **www.sexualaufklaerung.de**
  Sex education and family planning information for “facilitators”, who pass it on to young people for them to share with their peers, including the results of academic research and studies, the most up-to-date data and the description and demonstration of media.

- **www.loveline.de**
  Homepage for teenagers on love, partnership, sexuality, contraception. Chats, a glossary, FAQs, opinion polls, news and monthly topics to help adolescents increase their knowledge interactively.

- **www.machsmit.de**
  This is the youth domain on AIDS prevention. It is interactive and presents motifs from the mach’s mit campaign (use condoms), various games, information specially adapted to young people and interactive features centred on issues of safer sex and the use of condoms. Communication on the website is direct and adapted to the target group. Visitors can design new motifs of their own and enter them in a competition for a small prize, take a safer sex test and win a “sexpert’s certificate” or view the condom video “How it’s done” “Wie geht’s”. The website also gives information about current events, AIDS exhibitions, ideas for “facilitators” working with teenagers.

- **www.schwanger-info.de and www.familienplanung.de**
  All about contraception, family planning, pregnancy and the first few months with baby. Basic information, background knowledge and news are presented on various channels. Comprehensive information on selected topics is given in reports on personal experience, interviews with experts and statistics. An extensive database with detailed information about pregnancy advisory centres throughout Germany guides those in need of advice to an advisory centre close to home.

- **www.drugcom.de**
  Drugcom.de is a low-threshold Internet project that addresses adolescents with an affinity for drugs through the leisure sector. It aims to stimulate adolescent drug users to reflect critically on their own drug consumption and possibly modify it with the help of Internet supported anonymous information and counselling facilities.
THE FEDERAL LEVEL

- **www.rauch-frei.info**
  An Internet service aimed at informing teenagers about the effects, risks and health hazards of smoking. The website to stop young people smoking consists essentially of information, communication (smoke-free community) and individualised programmes to stop smoking.

- **www.bist-du-staerker-als-alkohol.de**
  This campaign aims to stimulate adolescents to reappraise their alcohol consumption. It contains information about the effects of alcohol on the body, a test of knowledge about alcohol and recipes for non-alcoholic cocktails.

- **www.kindergesundheit-info.de**
  The BZgA's Internet portal about everything connected with health and child development. Parents and professionals can obtain many different kinds of information about healthy childhood development. As well as basic information on each topic, there are many real-life tips, answers to frequently asked questions, links to other sites and much more. On the “Help and Advice” tab, parents can find out where to turn if they have questions or problems concerning the health or development of their child or in routine family and child-rearing contexts. Professionals working with children will find principles and background knowledge in matters of child development on the “For Professionals” tab.

- **www.ich-geh-zur-u.de**
  The “I go to the E! Do You?” (Ich geh’ zur U! Und Du?) project is a BZgA campaign to encourage parents to take their children to the early detection screening examinations focusing on:
  - Information about the early detection screening checkups,
  - Boosting attendance – especially for socially disadvantaged children at the U7 and U9 examinations and keeping their vaccination status up to date.
  - Awareness-raising for parents to take advantage of disease prevention campaigns and motivate them to take responsibility for healthy behaviour patterns,
  - Support, co-ordination and networking among different players with existing or planned activities, such as doctors, kindergartens, youth services, public health services and community managers in social hot spots.

- **www.bzga-essstoerungen.de**
  This website is an information platform for eating disorder sufferers, their families and mediators. Addresses are available for advice centres, self-help groups, therapeutic institutions, prevention projects and further training programmes on the subject of eating disorders all over Germany. The support and qualification of people with important functions in the promotion and stabilisation of
healthy behaviour patterns is thus assured. Sufferers can also contact telephone counsellors anonymously and receive concrete assistance in the search for suitable therapy places.

- **www.bzga-kinderuebergewicht.de**

This child obesity website is directed primarily towards a specialist audience and provides background information on the subject with a list of therapy centres and media available from the BZgA on child and adolescent health, eating disorders, diet, exercise and stress regulation. The BMI computer establishes the body mass index of children and adolescents. Further information is included about the BZgA quality assurance of action to counteract child and adolescent obesity.

- **www.gutdrauf.net**

The “FEEL GOOD – Diet, exercise and relaxation!” (GUT DRAUF – Ernähren, bewegen, entspannen!) website stands for health related services for teenagers in all their favourite places: sports clubs, school, youth clubs, leisure and travel. The FEEL GOOD principles and quality criteria ensure that youth programmes have undergone comprehensive quality control to prove that they are attractive to teenagers and promote healthy behaviour. The BZgA counts on structural changes and on-going training for mediators. A pilot project named after the “Rhein-Sieg” county will test the synergistic effects of extensive networking among all the services.

- **www.bzga.de/kindersicherheit**

The technical database “Childhood Accident Prevention” gives a qualified nationwide overview of campaigns, media and action for the prevention of accidents to children. It can be used to research addresses and specific information about what is on offer.

- **www.bzga.de/frauengesundheit**

The “Women’s health and health promotion” database is a signpost to other sources of information on girls’ and women’s health topics. The database was developed on the initiative of the Federal Ministry of Health in co-operation with national and international experts. Direct links lead the user to other Internet sites. Organisations working in the field, publications and periodicals, news of events and much more can be found, arranged by themes.
**Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau- und Stadtentwicklung**  
(Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development)

Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung (BMVBS)  
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The Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau- und Stadtentwicklung, BMVBS) presented its programme for safer roads in February 2001. One of the goals of this programme is to give more protection to the more vulnerable road users, among them elderly people, pedestrians, cyclists and children. A working group has been set up, led by the Federal Highways Research Institute and involving all the Federal Land governments, to develop proposals for bridging the gap in school traffic education between the cycling proficiency test in primary school and the driving test for young adults.

The BMVBS funds road safety federations, the German Road Safety Council and its member organisations, including the Deutsche Verkehrswacht (German Traffic Observatory). Some noteworthy target group programmes are “Child and Traffic” and the “Cycling Weeks” project. The former tells parents of kindergarten children how to train their children in safe behaviour as pedestrians or when cycling in traffic.

The safety primer published by the BMVBS is called “Cap’n Bluebear’s Fantastic Traffic Primer” (Käpt’n Blaubär – Die fantastische Verkehrsfi bel). It contains everything children between six and ten years of age need to know about roads and footpaths in the form of entertaining stories, riddles and comic strips. It stimulates readers in a playful way to cope with the issue of road safety. Among other topics, it explains the rules of the road and tests knowledge of road signs in guessing games.

The cycling plan “Go Cycling!” (FahrRad!) is the first of its kind in the Federal Republic of Germany. The purpose of the National Cycling Plan 2002 to 2012 is to initiate new practicable strategies and ways of encouraging cycling for travel, make recommendations and contribute to a more cycling-friendly climate. The advantages of cycling are that it is good for the environment, compatible with urban travel, saves transport costs and is both healthy and enjoyable.
**Subordinate Agencies and Structures**

**Bundesanstalt für Straßenwesen**
(Federal Highway Research Institute)

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The Federal Highway Research Institute (Bundesanstalt für Straßenwesen, BASt) falls within the remit of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development. Its work is led by defined research objectives. One of its main duties is to “improve traffic safety”.

The Highway Research Institute has an advisory function with the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development; for instance, it gives scientific and educational input with regard to road safety education for children.

Target-group orientated road safety work is an important approach for further improving road safety in traffic. A recent research project, (“Road safety of foreign workers and their families” – Verkehrssicherheit ausländischer Arbeitnehmer und ihrer Familien) put forward suggestions for the design of road safety campaigns for foreign workers. The results were published in the series “Federal Highway Research Institute Reports” (Berichte der Bundesanstalt für Straßenwesen). The experimental part of the project contained interviews with experts and focus group discussions, for example with Turks, Greeks and Portuguese of various ages. They included mothers, learner drivers, young drivers and older working people. A definition of the road safety problems peculiar to foreigners was established, so that criteria for target-group-specific road safety measures could be developed.

**Deutscher Verkehrssicherheitsrat e. V.**
(German Road Safety Council)

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The German Road Safety Council (Deutscher Verkehrssicherheitsrat, DVR) is a registered charity and the umbrella organisation for road safety in Germany.
It has approximately 270 member associations and receives public funding for road safety training and education from pre-school and kindergarten to adult education. Thus, for example, up to 12,000 events per year are held with the parents of pre-school children in the “Child and Traffic” programme, presented by 1,500 trained facilitators.

**Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit**

(Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)

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The Federal Ministry of the Environment has no defined special responsibility for child and youth policy, nor is it bound in its work by any specific child and youth legislation.

Nevertheless, children and adolescents are an important target group for environmental policy. Firstly, they need special protection wherever their health or living, learning and play environment might be exposed to or impaired by harmful substances, and secondly they are the decision-makers of tomorrow. That is why they need to acquire the knowledge and skills and to be actively involved in shaping the future environment as part of their education for sustainable development. The Ministry offers free educational material derived from research projects through its educational service (www.bmu.de/bildungsservice) on topics such as “Climate Change”, “Water”, etc.

To raise awareness for the environment and for nature conservation, and to demonstrate environmentally friendly ways of acting in a playful and enjoyable way, the Environment Ministry addresses children and young people through national competitions. One example is the sports and ecology competition, which ran between 2002 and 2006, called “Don Cato Environmental Championship” (Don Cato UmWeltmeisterschaft), involving 30,000 children aged between six and twelve with parents, instructors and coaches. The junior and youth teams in sports clubs, for example, organised tree planting campaigns and ecological day programmes, children tested the driving habits of club members and investigated their club’s energy consumption.

The Ministry seeks close co-operation with youth associations and supports them financially with funding for appropriate projects.
Examples of current projects receiving association funding:

- **“Nature without Frontiers”** (Natur ohne Grenzen) is a nationwide competition for nature conservation projects executed by young people in conjunction with the German Alliance for the Environment and Nature Conservation. The target group is twelve to 16-year-olds, for whom there are fewer educational ecological programmes. The participants choose a locally relevant issue. They then analyse the problem, develop an action plan and carry out actions worthy of recommendation to others. The teams then enter the documentation of their project for the competition. A special feature is that they share in discussion with all the other teams and continue to develop their project in this way.

- In the **“Multi-vision Show on Climate and Energy”** (Multivision Klima und Energie), the Alliance for the Environment and Nature Conservation (Bund für Umwelt- und Naturschutz Deutschland, BUND) is revising and updating a multi-vision show, the previous version of which was presented to 300,000 school pupils. Its purpose is to encourage boys and girls to take a good look at their own environment with a view to identifying energy-saving potential and doing something about it after taking part in a competition after the show.

- The youth section of Naturfreunde Deutschland (German Friends of Nature) develops appropriate forms and methods of reaching young people using the example of **climate protection**.

- The **“Flowing Water Ecology”** (Fließgewässerökologie) of the Nature Conservation Youth of the Alliance for the Environment and Nature Conservation (Bund für Umwelt- und Naturschutz Deutschlands) wishes to inspire adolescents aged from twelve to 18 to take action for flowing waters and research the riverine ecosystems. Adolescents are given the opportunity to engage actively in the local conservation of natural flowing waters and to enter competitions with other groups on the Internet.

The following examples from the renewable energy sector are worthy of note:

- The Youth Committee for Renewable Energy (Jugendkomitee für Erneuerbare Energien), a 15-strong body made up of representatives of associations and independent young people, has been giving input to the Federal Minister for the Environment continuously since 2004. In three to four joint meetings each year, the BMU informs the young people about topical political issues and receives information about the views of the Youth Committee on specific issues. The contact for the Youth Committee is Secretary of State Michael Müller MdB (www.zukunftsenergie.org).

- The research project entitled “Renewable Energies Adventure World: powerado” (Erlebniswelt Erneuerbare Energien: powerado) researches effective ways of communicating the promotion of renewable energy among children and adolescents. To this end, information materials are developed in
nine modules for different age groups and for “multipliers” which can be used to determine successful communication strategies for renewable energy. (www.powerado.de)

- The recently launched co-operation project entitled “Training for Renewable Energy” (Ausbildung für Erneuerbare Energien) facilitates access for teenagers to occupations in the field of renewable energy. Renewable energy has been the subject of awareness raising by means of an Internet portal and a status report on training to keep it alive in the vocational training scene. Trainees and teachers are encouraged to put existing solar generators in schools and local authorities to good use for teaching purposes. And finally, schools and vocational colleges are addressed in pilot projects to recruit trainees through peer learning for the promotion of renewable energy.

The Ministry develops various activities relating to children in the context of the Environment and Health. A nationwide study on the exposure of children to harmful pollutants has been carried out with support from the Ministry of Research (Children-Environment Survey), and is now under evaluation. The survey was attached as a module to the National Health Survey of Children and Adolescents. Children also play an important part in the context of the joint action programme on Health and the Environment with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Consumer Protection. Alongside research projects, information and educational materials about children, there is a special Internet site for children (www.kinderwelt.org).

Subordinate Agencies and Structures

Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
(Federal Environment Agency)

Umweltbundesamt
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The UBA was founded on 22 July 1974 as the scientific and technical support agency for the Ministry of the Environment, particularly in drafting bills and administrative regulations for clean air, noise abatement, waste and water management, soil protection, chemicals in the environment, and in health aspects of environmental protection.
Among the Office’s most important tasks are public education on environmental issues, providing central services and assistance for environmental research carried out by the Ministry, co-ordinating the German Government’s environmental research, collecting environmental data, publishing it in “Data for the Environment” and managing the Environment Information and Documentation System (Informations- und Dokumentationssystems Umwelt, UMPLIS).

The UBA has numerous international functions. For instance, it is the Co-operation Centre for the WHO (World Health Organisation) in air quality monitoring and fighting air pollution; it is the licensing authority for German activities in the Antarctic under the Environmental Protection Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty; and it is the national liaison office for UNESCO in matters of environmental education. It is also the home of the German Emission Trading Agency (Deutsche Emissionshandelsstelle, DEHSt).

**Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN)**
(Federal Agency for Nature Conservation)

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The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) is the German Government’s central scientific nature conservation agency at national and international level. It is based in Bonn with branches in Leipzig and on the island of Vilm in the Baltic Sea, which includes the Vilm Island International Nature Conservation Academy.

The BfN falls under the remit of the Federal Ministry for the Environment and has important duties in the enforcement of international conventions on endangered species, marine nature conservation, the Antarctic Convention and genetic engineering legislation. It advises the German Government, facilitates national sponsorship programmes, licenses the import and export of protected animal and plant species, puts research projects out to tender and reports on the results of its work. In this way, the BfN provides assistance for legislative decision making and supports the work of administrative and nature conservation associations. The development of an integrated nature conservation policy is the declared objective of the BfN. It strives to harmonise ecological, economic and social aspects and mediates between the protection and utilisation of nature.

The BfN operates a national literature information and documentation centre and nature conservation systems. It publishes individual articles in its own series of scientific pamphlets and the periodical “Nature and Landscape”.

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It is also integrated in the UNESCO programme with the title, “Man and the Biosphere” (MAB).

The **Nature Detectives** ([www.naturdetektive.de](http://www.naturdetektive.de)) is a special project addressed to children and adolescents. Nature Detectives started as a means of making known to the public the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The programme is a contribution by the BfN and the Ministry of the Environment (BMU), with support from many partners, to Article 13 of the Convention, linking it to the United Nations 1992 Conference on “Environment and Development” in Rio de Janeiro and AGENDA 21 with its Chapter 26 on “PR work”. In 2006, the Nature Detectives youth multi-media project received a distinction from the German UNESCO Committee in the “Project of the Decade” competition. It belongs to the national alliance for “learning sustainability” and is an element of UN Decade 2005–2014 “Education for sustainable development”.

The project addresses schools and adults, as well as children and adolescents, and encourages the participants to seek out plants, animals and their habitats in the natural world, re-discover unknown or forgotten things and post their observations on the Internet. There are twelve different topics for observation by Nature Detectives. Nature Detective Reporter Pages are created and regularly updated with text, illustrations and audio files. By interlinking nature-watching and Internet use, the project aims to arouse and develop children’s interest and enjoyment in nature study in a contemporary setting.

The music project **SOUNDS FOR NATURE** is the result of co-operation with a music agency, the German Rock Music Foundation, and the Institute of Environmental Communication (Institut für Umweltkommunikation, ifu Bonn). It is intended to enthuse adolescents and young adults for nature conservation. SOUNDS FOR NATURE reaches out to young people through their own interests, experiences and aspirations.

SOUNDS FOR NATURE connects nature with music and young people. It promotes debate on the subject of nature. Music competitions are organised for young musical talent and bands with a substantive reference to nature. Charity events are held for nature conservation and environmental protection projects. Open-air music festivals are planned to reduce the usual burden on the environment. SOUNDS FOR NATURE is a way of communicating environmental messages or products in a positive context.

Today’s event and media society demands entertainment, pleasure and fun. SOUNDS FOR NATURE pursues an “ecotainment” strategy. The gravity of ecological issues and the universal human responsibility arising from them are brought together and addressed using a lightweight format. Willingness to treat the natural environment with consideration is urged without finger-wagging. The project raises lasting awareness of the issues among all stakeholders, and shows ways and alternatives for protecting nature and the environment without
missing out on the fun factor. Taking a music festival as an example, this would mean involving the organisers, bands and visitors.

**Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung**  
(Federal Ministry of Education and Research)

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The work of the BMBF within the scope of its responsibilities under the Basic Law includes:
- policy making and co-ordination, as well as legislation for extracurricular vocational education and further education,
- legislation for student grants and the funding thereof,
- regulation of the general principles of the tertiary education system,
- expansion and new building of universities, including university teaching hospitals (in conjunction with the Länder),
- sponsorship for gifted school pupils, young working people and students, encouragement of young scientists,
- sponsorship of exchanges between trainees, students, participants in continuing education, educators and scientists with counterparts in other countries,
- education planning and promotion of scientific and academic research (in conjunction with the Länder).

The BMBF supports research in different ways, for example by
- the funding and organisation of basic research (in conjunction with the Länder),
- funding of government preventive research in the environmental, climate, ecological and health sectors, funding of marine and polar research, research and development to improve working conditions, educational and vocational education research and research in the field of the arts and social sciences,
- funding key technologies, for instance research and development in healthcare, employment and innovative forms of work, technological design, bio-engineering, IT, earth sciences and mobility and transport.
The Ministry of Education and Research promotes international co-operation in science, research and technology with countries in and outside Europe and within international organisations such as the EU, UNESCO and the Council of Europe. The BMBF, together with the federal state governments (Länder), negotiates EU programme decisions and other measures, and co-ordinates the implementation of the programmes.

Vocational training in Germany is mostly based on the dual system of education, which sandwiches training in commercial firms and vocational schools. At present, around 1.7 million young people are engaged in this form of occupational qualification. The Ministry of Education is the Government's policy and co-ordination ministry for the practical side of training. It is responsible for legislation on vocational training, for further training regulations and for the Regulation of the Suitability of Instructors (Ausbilder-Eignungs-Verordnung). Training programme details are regulated by the respective technical ministries by agreement with the BMBF. The Länder are responsible for the theoretical part of the training in vocational colleges.

The trainee receives most of his/her practical training in the workplace of a private firm. At vocational college, the practical training is grounded in the theoretical background. The source books are “Vocational Training Rules” (Ausbildungsordnungen) for state registered qualified vocations. They form the legal basis for the detailed specificities of practical training in private enterprises. The training given by private enterprises is supported by external practical courses and instruction under the terms of the training contract signed with the training firm.

The BMBF funds a large number of funding programmes or courses.

The signatories to the “National Pact for Vocational Training and Junior Professionals in Germany” of June 2004, in close collaboration with the Länder governments, undertake jointly and bindingly to offer vocational training to all young people willing and able to take it. The dual vocational education system is given precedence over other offers. It includes giving adolescents with limited chances of employment a way into vocational training and working life. Private enterprise and the Federal Government undertake jointly to increase training performance significantly in the next three years and to start with the recruitment process earlier, focusing more closely on the individual young person. The training and skills pact is to be extended beyond the year 2007.

The Federal Government’s “Training campaign” (Ausbildungsoffensive) aims to bring about a long-term improvement in the traineeship situation. At the same time, it is a central element for the implementation of the Federal Government’s flanking activities in the “National Pact for Vocational Training and Junior Professionals in Germany”. Various campaigns offer support for businesses when they create new traineeships. This applies in particular in regions with comparatively poor ratios between the supply and demand of traineeships.
In addition, more traineeships are to be created in industries of the future or modern technology.

The training campaign “Give training now – success needs everyone” (Ausbilden jetzt – Erfolg braucht alle) creates an incentive for creating additional traineeships and winning over more firms for vocational training.

The purpose of the Government’s training campaign is firstly to support enterprises in providing a sufficient number of training places for the current year, and secondly to push ahead with structural reforms in the dual system of vocational training, the creation of conditions conducive to practical training in industry, and flanking measures for industry’s efforts to provide training by public funding programmes.

The BMBF also funds programmes, pilot schemes and research projects to promote innovation in occupational qualifications. Among the focal issues are the improvement of opportunities for people with special needs, the development of new forms of teaching and learning, extension of the use of new media in vocational qualification, more regional co-operation in vocational training and new methods of further developing occupational skills after initial qualification. Further areas for funding are the early detection of new higher standards and the development of innovative extra qualifications in vocational training.

The BMBF has been funding the “JOBSTARTER – training for the future” (JOBSTARTER – Für die Zukunft ausbilden) programme since it was launched in 2006 (www.jobstarter.de). It encourages innovation and the on-going development of structures within professional education throughout Germany. The programme aims to provide more training jobs for adolescents in industrial and commercial occupations by persuading more companies and enterprises to offer training.

The programme bundles existing BMBF activities in industrial training, carrying forward their development and supplementing them with additional topics and funding instruments. It is flexible in addressing regional demand and changes in training requirements and contributes to the optimisation of regional training structures. It reinforces regional responsibility in occupational training by helping to network regional structures so that synergies can be put to the best possible use.

The programme tries to tap additional training potential in
- companies that have grown tired of training and withdrawn from responsibility,
- companies that have no experience of training and have not yet trained anyone, and
- companies with training experience that might have more places to offer.

JOBSTARTER helps the regions to understand vocational training not only as an instrument for coping with structural change, but also as a promotional tool
for creating sustainable and intelligent regional business development. The programme significantly helps in promoting vocational qualifications geared to the future. The funding of individual programmes in their present form has been restructured and standardised in an integrated funding strategy.

JOBSTARTER regards itself as a “learning programme” that adapts flexibly to current developments. Financing for the programme until 2010 is assured by the BMBF with help from the European Social Fund (ESF). It is managed by the JOBSTARTER office at the Federal Institute for Occupational Training (BIBB).

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research funds Innovation in General Education, notably in programmes run by the Federal and Länder Joint Committee for Education Planning and Research Sponsoring (Bund-Länder-Kommission für Bildungsplanung und Forschungsförderung). Together with the Länder governments, the Ministry supports pilot projects that give a major stimulus to the advancement of the education system, focusing for instance on quality improvements in schools and school systems, increasing efficiency in maths and science teaching, education for sustainable development, life-long learning, cultural education in the media age, the involvement of media, information and communications technology in teaching and learning processes, and education for a democratic culture.

The Federal Republic of Germany has a differentiated and organically-grown system of encouragement for the gifted which challenges and nurtures special talents. Young people who perform exceptionally well in vocational training or at work can be admitted to a talent programme run by the Foundation for Education and Talent (Stiftung Bildung und Begabung SBB) and funded by the Ministry of Education and Research, which offers them an opportunity for sophisticated further education while working.

Young people who receive scholarships or bursaries for gifted vocational trainees qualify for further education grants for up to three years. They can use the money either to specialise in their own field or to take inter-disciplinary or personal development courses. Efficiency studies are commissioned at regular intervals by the BMBF to check how effective the funding is. The talents of gifted schoolchildren are nurtured, with support from the Ministry of Education and Research and other ministries, by means of a varied range of competitions for school students and young people, and guided towards scientific working methods by working on projects in vacation courses at the German School Students’ Academy. Further information about the programme is obtainable from www.begabtenfoerderung.de.

Assistance for the disadvantaged focuses on youngsters who leave elementary school without qualifications, young people leaving special schools, adolescents with social disabilities and young foreigners, who often need special help if they are to obtain qualifications, such as intensive mentoring during voca-
tional training. The BMBF developed the support system for the disadvantaged at the Federal Employment Agency.

When the “Enhance Skills – Skill-building Programme for Target Groups with Special Needs” (Kompetenzen fördern – Berufliche Qualifizierung für Zielgruppen mit besonderem Förderbedarf, BQF) programme expired in 2006, the BMBF turned to two main areas. The first was improving access to work and integration for adolescents with a difficult start. This requires better transition management between school and job training. The second area was the important field of action to help unskilled or low-skilled young adult workers to acquire school leaving qualifications. The objective of the activities planned for this purpose is to improve young people’s long-term opportunities in the employment market by creating individual, flexible and modular pathways to the acquisition of qualifications and give them a “second chance”, for example by preparation for the external examinations.

The BMBF has pushed forward the development of concepts with this programme (www.kompetenzen-foerdern.de), which is open to all the players in this field. The BMBF financed the final transfer phase until the end of September 2007 in close co-operation with the Good Practice Center for Assistance for the Disadvantaged (Good Practice Center Benachteiligtenförderung, GPC) at the Federal Institute for Vocational Training (Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung, BIBB) and the German Aerospace Centre (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt, DLR), which sponsors the project, so that the successful approaches in the programme could be picked up and integrated into remedial teaching practice for the occupationally disadvantaged.

Four educational policy guidelines were elaborated:
- to integrate industry’s vocational training and qualification potential more strongly into the promotion of disadvantaged young people;
- to start early with work integration, design preparation for work in schools as closely as possible to the real thing;
- to open individual pathways by means of specific offers of help;
- to strengthen regional transition management with new instruments and collaboration of all local players.

The BMBF works to help employees and companies keep abreast of ever new challenges in the world of work. This necessitates new developments in ongoing training and requires support for further training for career building. In the field of general education, the Ministry practises the broad-based development of learning, to equip people with skills for life by promoting innovative projects. This extends to learning in the social setting and includes the seamless transition to ongoing vocational training. Thus, for instance, the Ministry contributes to the national implementation of the United Nations Decade of Liter-
acy 2003 to 2012 with innovative projects aimed at strengthening and modernising the work of adult literacy and basic education teaching in Germany.

The objective of the joint initiative launched in 1996 by the BMBF and Deutsche Telekom to get schools on the net is to enable all 34,000 schools in Germany to have Internet connections. Since 1996, it has made a substantial contribution to embedding new media in the school curriculum in Germany. The outlook for the next stage of development was sketched out at the tenth anniversary celebration in October 2006: “Schools on the Net” will become “Education on the Net” in future.

Two services have been set up to attract more schoolgirls and female teachers to the Internet: LeaNet for teachers and LizzyNet for schoolgirls. All three online services offer communication platforms used by several thousand teachers and school pupils for their work in virtual classrooms and work groups, or for cross-border partnerships. Schools on the Net is also the co-ordination centre for school competitions like the EU-wide Netd@ys.

Concerted Action for Further Education (Konzertierte Aktion Weiterbildung, KAW) has been in existence since 1987 and is the unique international stand-alone platform for communication and co-operation between everyone with responsibility for further education in Germany (e.g. Federal and Land governments; church and private further education charities; further education associations; universities).

One of the focal purposes of the Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is the assertion of equal opportunities for women in education and research. Policies for the future must create the conditions for women to be equally represented in all areas and at all levels, especially in management positions. The BMBF has established a division entitled “Equal Opportunities in Education and Science” (Chancengleichheit in Bildung und Forschung) for this purpose. Its job is to work with other divisions and use tied budget funding for “Strategies to assert equal opportunities for women in education and science” to ensure gender mainstreaming in all the projects and courses run by the BMBF.

Equal opportunities policy is a constituent of all areas of politics. “Equal opportunities” is a mainstream principle running explicitly through all political decisions, actions and activities. The Ministry has integrated Gender Mainstreaming as a goal and a method into all its fields of work, so that women and men are equally considered in developing, implementing and evaluating programmes and campaigns and when granting funding.

The Vocational Education Report (Berufsbildungsbericht, BBB) is published annually by the Ministry (BMBF). It reports the trends in supply and demand in the apprenticeship market and other main foci of the Federal Government’s vocational training policy. The Report also contains statistical information on the status quo and the structure of initial and on-going vocational training, such as the development of new apprenticeship careers, involvement
of industry in the dual system of vocational training, transition from education
to employment, etc. It also reviews the results of research and pilot projects and
new developments in international co-operation in vocational education policy
and EU policies.

The design of the new cross-departmental “Evaluation of Education
System Performance in an International Comparison” (Feststellung der
Leistungsfähigkeit des Bildungswesens im internationalen Vergleich) is part
of the BMBF’s remit and will be shared with the education ministries in the
Länder when the Reform of the Federal Structure enters into force.

This new cross-departmental task is a sign that the constitutional legislators
recognise and emphasise the crucial role of education for Germany’s competi-
tiveness and social cohesion. The aim is to strengthen the quality of the German
education system in an international comparison. This promotes both overall
competitiveness and the individual’s opportunities in life.

Among the tools available are international comparative studies such as PISA
and IGLU, in which new results were published at the end of 2006. Another
element of control is the national education reporting system. Federal and
state (Land) governments presented their joint overview of development in the
German education system as a whole, from early education, child care and
guidance through to adult education.

The focus of the next joint education report in 2008 will be “Transitions from
School to Vocational, Tertiary Education and Employment” (Übergänge
Schule – Berufsbildung – Hochschulbildung – Arbeitsmarkt).

With this new tool of joint recommendations, the Federal and Länder govern-
m ents can join together in setting shared goals for the further development of
the education system, so that they can co-ordinate implementation in their
respective areas of responsibility, for example to support reform efforts by
means of educational research in the schools sector of the Länder.

Life-long learning is growing more and more important for a successful
career. The BMBF launched an initiative in 2007 offering three new financial
incentives for further education. The model is based on two studies presented
in January 2007, offering a further education bonus, with a suggested amount of
154 EUR; secondly, the experts proposed an extension of the Asset Building Act
(Vermögensbildungsgesetz), which would allow money to be taken out and used
for further education when the seven-year savings period expires, by contrast
with the present rules; and thirdly, loans would be made available to finance
further education at the time when more cost-intensive courses are taken.

The Innovation Circle for Career Education (Innovationskreis berufliche
Bildung, KBB), appointed by the BMBF, presented ten Guidelines for the
Reform of Vocational Education (Leitlinien zur Reform der Berufsbildung)
on 16 July 2007. The objective is to create more permeability in the education
system so that young people are guaranteed new opportunities for integration
and careers. This will strengthen international competitiveness in the vocational education system.

The catalogue of action provides for a modular system of educational units and the grouping of individual careers into occupational constellations. In addition, training capacities will be used more effectively, pathways into industrial training secured and, in particular, new funding structures created for disadvantaged people.

These are the ten guidelines:
- more school qualifications, improve maturity for vocational training;
- optimise preparation for vocational training for disadvantaged individuals – rearrange funding structures;
- optimise transitions – secure practical industrial training;
- strengthen the principle of defined occupations – make vocational education more flexible;
- broaden the base of vocational training – make more effective use of training capacity;
- improve permeability – ensure that vocational qualifications link up together;
- “Second chance” for qualification – re-qualification of young adults;
- opening to Europe – improve mobility and recognition;
- strengthen the dual training system in a European comparison – secure potential on the international education market;
- create foundations for forward-looking vocational education policy – strengthen co-operation among business and industry, academic research and politics.

The results of the innovation circle were presented to the Federal Cabinet on 24 July 2007.

Subordinate Agencies and Structures

Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung
(Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training)

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The Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) is the national and international centre of excellence in vocational education in Ger-
many. It is a legally independent institute in public law and works on the basis of the Vocational Education Act (Berufsbildungsgesetzes, BBiG). It acts for the German Government in the field of vocational education, usually according to instruction or guidance, alternatively by order of the responsible Federal Ministries. The BIBB is also an independent institute of vocational educational research.

Employers, trade unionists, Federal and Länder governments have equal representation in the parliamentary committee (“Vocational Education Parliament”) of the BIBB. The parliamentary committee advises the Federal Government in vocational training policy issues. It adopts the annual research programme and budget of the BIBB. A scientific advisory council advises the institute in matters of research, especially in developing the annual research programme, and assures the quality of vocational education research. The Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is the Institute’s supervisory agency.

The BIBB researches and develops the foundations for initial and further vocational training for skilled and managerial workers in all areas of the economy and public administration. Its objectives are continuing improvement in vocational training and in the vocational education system, and funding for the transfer of research and development results into politics and practice.

The priority subjects (“lead topics”) in research into vocational training at the BIBB are:

- market for traineeships and the employment system,
- modernisation and quality development in vocational education,
- qualification research,
- lifelong learning, permeability and equality of education pathways,
- vocational education for specific target groups, and
- internationalism of vocational education.

An essential feature of the BIBB’s work is its close co-operation with vocational education practice and its orientation towards practical requirements. Together with experts from all areas of the economy, the BIBB works on behalf of the German Government to achieve on-going modernisation and improvement of state recognised apprenticeship careers and further education examinations, co-ordinates the training regulations with vocational college curricula in the Federal Länder, develops aids for vocational training practice in industry and educational institutions, and keeps a list of all recognised apprenticeship careers and regulated further training and re-qualification measures.

The BIBB also runs programmes and projects to develop and test structures, methods and content in vocational education, for example teaching and learning processes, the development of vocational skills, the advancement of disadvantaged, low-skilled or specially gifted young people and adults, the qualification of vocational training personnel, quality assurance and the promo-
tion of gender and inter-cultural equality in the planning of vocational training. The BIBB examines distance learning courses in the field of vocational training for quality assurance purposes. It also sponsors external vocational education centres (Überbetriebliche Berufsbildungsstätten, ÜBS) and their development into centres of excellence.

The BIBB supports the German Government in European and international co-operation in the field of vocational education, for instance by sharing in the work of European and international bodies and advising other countries in the development of their vocational education systems.

Participation in the drafting of the Vocational Education Report and the vocational education statistics are additional important statutory duties.

The recipients of the BIBB’s work are people involved in the practical planning and execution of vocational education and the academic public. The principal practical planning agencies are the Ministries at federal and Land level, the national employers’ and trade union federations and the chambers with responsibility for vocational training. The practitioners include, in particular, human resource managers, works council and staff committee representatives in industry, administrators, trainers and instructors in industry and vocational education institutions and teachers in vocational colleges. The academic public means universities, colleges of applied science and other institutions of vocational education research. The vast majority of subscribers to the BIBB periodical “Vocational Education in Research and Practice – BWP” (Berufsbildung in Wissenschaft und Praxis – BWP) come from these target groups.

The Internet site of the BIBB (www.bibb.de) is one of the major sources of information on vocational training in Germany. It offers over 100,000 pages and documents presenting its services in the fields of research, development and consultancy. Each year, two million users visit the website, and the trend is still rising.

The BIBB’s knowledge management system is supplemented by the Vocational Education Communication and Information System (KIBB, www.kibb.de). KIBB serves as the presentation and communication platform and enables access not only to BIBB projects and information systems but also to the results of the Vocational Education Research Network (AG BFN) via a “knowledge map”.

THE FEDERAL LEVEL
The National Education for Europe Agency in the Federal Institute for Vocational Education (NA beim BIBB) has been in existence since 2000 and is responsible to the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). It operates the European LEONARDO DA VINCI vocational education programme and the GRUNDTVIG programme for general adult education in Germany under the umbrella of the EU education programme for lifelong learning (2007–2013). Since 1 January 2007, the National Agency has been the National Europass Center (NEC) for vocational education players in Germany.

The NA is the information source in Germany for the implementation of the EU employment programme 2010 that was agreed by the European Ministers of Education and the European Commission in February 2002. Its work covers Europe-related special tasks such as the organisation of the national inauguration event (October 2006 in Bonn) of the ECVET Consultation process, or helping with the German Presidency conference entitled “Europe – completing the learning space” (Munich, June 2007).

Finally, the NA alternates with the Conference of Ministers of Education (Kultusministerkonferenz, KMK) for the award of the “European Language Seal” to the winners of a nationwide competition for innovative projects to promote the learning of foreign languages.

The programmes and activities focus mainly on:
- information for the (expert) public about the LEONARDO DA VINCI and GRUNDTVIG programmes, EUROPASS and “European Language Seal”,
- organising and hosting seminars, workshops, conferences and meetings,
- consultation and advice for potential applicants, helping with preparation and execution of the application,
- appraisal and review of the project applications submitted in Germany,
- technical support for projects receiving sponsorship in Germany (including contract and financial management), and
- dissemination of programme and project results.

The NA works closely with the BMBF, the Länder governments and both sides of industry. At international level, it works with the European Commission and the national agencies in the 30 participating countries.
The Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) is responsible for the planning and implementation of the Federal Government’s development policy. Its work concentrates on helping to shape the global framework, the development of bilateral and multi-lateral sponsorship strategies, the support for development programmes and projects by partner countries and promotion of development co-operation with and among non-governmental organisations. The BMZ’s bilateral projects are mostly executed by the GTZ and the KfW Entwicklungsbank. In addition, the BMZ supports projects executed by political foundations, church sponsors and NGOs in developing countries.

In the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1989, 192 countries have undertaken to create conditions that will be conducive to the personal development of children under 18 and to assure their rights.

For the first time, the Convention on the Rights of the Child asserts the right of every child to development, protection and care, and places the state under an obligation to create the political, economic and social conditions for the implementation of those rights. The 70 Heads of State and Government attending the two World Children’s Summits in 1990 and 2002 undertook to develop specific action to improve the situation of all children. At the 2002 summit in New York, an action plan of 21 objectives to improve the situation of children was adopted. Special emphasis is placed on health, education, protection from exploitation, abuse and HIV/AIDS. Emphasis was also placed on promotion of opportunities for participation by young people in civic decision making processes.

Poverty always has repercussions on children. According to UNICEF, more than a billion children live in poverty, and nearly half of them have not even the means of subsistence or the means of normal development for their age. There are more children and adolescents – 1.3 billion people under 24 – in the developing countries than ever before, and the population is still growing. Child and youth sponsorship is, therefore, an important instrument for the Govern-
ment in the worldwide **fight against poverty**. That is why concepts and strategies for youth sponsorship are part of the co-ordinated inter-departmental action programme entitled “Fight against Poverty – a Global Mission”, which is the German Government’s contribution to halving extreme poverty by 2015. The action programme details what activities Germany will contribute to the implementation of the UN’s declared Millennium Development Goals (United Nations’ Millennium Declaration). The German Government places special emphasis on the issues of child labour and child trafficking in implementing the action programme for children and adolescents.

The purpose of child and youth work in developing countries is to permanently improve living conditions for girls and boys. Children and adolescents in developing countries become part of the working population at a very early age. They have to be highly independent, shoulder responsibility and develop imagination and creativity in their everyday survival strategies, their subsistence production and the informal sector, in their families and neighbourhoods. At the same time, their basic rights are often ignored.

Development projects and programmes in economic co-operation address the special self-help and organisational potential of adolescents. They are encouraged to claim their rights and be active in bringing about change in their own situation. The key notions are empowerment and participation. Girls and boys are not perceived only as victims of poverty and disadvantage. They are active social players who can be the vectors of development in their society, especially with reference to their involvement in national strategies to fight poverty in Germany’s development partner countries.

The development of children and adolescents is a theme running through all German economic development projects. Promotion and funding action centres on the interests of young people, for instance in group education programmes. Children and adolescents may also be part of a broader target group, as in health promotion projects, economic and employment development, protection of the environment and resources, rural or community development and the promotion of democracy and peace. Equality between boys and girls is always a prominent element of German economic development.

**Executive Organisations**

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
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The main purpose of GTZ is to support the Federal Government in achieving its development goals. Under the 1974 general agreement with the BMZ, the GTZ executes technical co-operation on behalf of the Government.

Technical co-operation means not only the transfer of technical knowledge, but above all organisational and economic knowledge. To this end, the GTZ provides the requisite sectoral, instrumental and regional capabilities. It develops and supports integrated solutions in all areas of technical co-operation and currently operates in 126 countries.

The basis for the work of the GTZ consists in the motives and objectives formulated for German development policy by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ). The guiding principle is “sustainable development”, aimed at strengthening people’s own initiative and that of local organisations in the partner countries without jeopardising the resources for future generations. The GTZ works on behalf of the German Federal Government with developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The BMZ is the Ministry responsible for selecting the entitlement of countries to call on the services of the GTZ.

**Children and adolescents in development co-operation** is an issue that has grown in significance world-wide. Sustainable change in society and a secure future will be supported by defending the rights of children and adolescents, and by providing meaningful help for them to develop their potential.

The target group and main players in German technical co-operation are primarily socially disadvantaged girls and boys aged ten to 24, with special attention paid to the twelve- to 18-year-old age group. Age grouping is not rigid and includes younger and older people, but it is based on the UN definitions. “Youth” as a target group is heterogeneous in composition as regards age, sex, socio-cultural and socio-economic situation and ethnicity.

Youth services are delivered by GTZ on behalf of the BMZ at four levels:
- political advisory input: advice on the development and decentralised implementation of child and youth policies (e.g. advice on building up a Ministry of Youth/development of a cross-sectoral youth policy/advice on implementing national child and youth policies and programmes);
- empowerment: building up and/or strengthening institutions, in-service training for specialised personnel and mediators, inclusive youth promoters (e.g. in projects to increase civic participation by young people and preventive action against violence);
- networking: linkage between the state and civil society;
- preventive youth work: prevention of behaviour among young people which invites risk, such as violence, exposing themselves to health risks, HIV/AIDS prevention.
BMZ/GTZ Projects for Children and Adolescents

On behalf of the BMZ, the GTZ manages the project for the youth sector: “Promotion of children and adolescents as a target group of development co-operation work”. Its objectives are:

– to develop innovative approaches and methods of supporting this age group and continuing to develop those that are already successful;
– to evaluate, systematise and disseminate the learning experiences gained from youth work in development co-operation;
– to anchor child and youth issues across all sectors of German development co-operation (e.g. in the health, education, employment, local and regional development, crisis prevention, conflict processing, conduct of government);
– to develop training products and execute continuing education courses on issues of child and youth work;
– to develop tools and studies for youth work, especially for evaluation to demonstrate effectiveness.

The BMZ/GTZ projects “Protection of minors from sexual exploitation” under the Convention (on the Rights of the Child)

On behalf of the BMZ, the Convention project is a contribution towards the implementation of the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which refers to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Within the scope of suitable intervention models for governmental and non-governmental institutions in selected partner countries, the Convention project focuses on gender-sensitive prevention of the sexual exploitation of under-age children and adolescents and the rehabilitation of victims. Essential aspects are awareness-raising, education of mediators and the general public, and the qualification of specialists in police, the judiciary, health services and tourism. Support is given for information campaigns and gender-specific programmes for girls and boys in rehabilitation centres using psycho-social counselling and trauma processing methods.

KfW Entwicklungsbank

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The KfW Entwicklungsbank supports the public sector in developing and transformation countries on behalf of the Ministry of Economic Co-operation and
Development by means of financial co-operation. The main purpose of KfW funding is to fight poverty, strengthen sustainable development and support structural reform processes in the partner countries. As well as reducing poverty, the objectives are to defuse social and political tensions and protect natural resources and the environment. The KfW Entwicklungsbank manages and monitors the use of funds from Germany and supports technical, administrative and organisational project development and implementation. The KfW is currently mentoring over 1,400 projects world-wide.

The KfW Entwicklungsbank has a focus on children and adolescents, both as a cross-functional issue, with projects explicitly for them and programmes in the field of financial co-operation. Education and employment, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention, crisis prevention and re-integration are important areas of funding with a special focus on young people. Basic thinking and opening up prospects, empowerment and the expansion of capabilities, re-integration (“second chance”) are the hallmark both of individual projects and of programmes for children (up to 13) and young adults (aged 14 to 24).

In 2005, the KfW Entwicklungsbank integrated the theme of children and adolescents into current education and crisis prevention programmes all over the world with sums amounting to over 220 million Euros. The Bank’s total funding volume of approved new projects between 2000 and 2005 amounted to 700 million Euros. Programmes focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention and unwanted pregnancies are particularly beneficial to children and adolescents. About 80 per cent of the total commitment includes action for child and adolescent health.

Selected examples of the KfW Entwicklungsbank’s funding work are:
- Health: special education programmes for adolescents e.g. in Cameroon, where discussions of love and sexuality are broadcast in radio phone-ins, or in Côte d’Ivoire, where HIV/AIDS prevention is addressed in the popular TV series “AIDS and the City”;
- Basic and vocational training: provision of school space and teaching materials in poor regions, e.g. for 300,000 pupils in Yemen, with the special aim of reducing discrimination against girls and ethnic minorities by promoting assistance, creating awareness and supporting educational reform;
- Income and employment: community and youth work for building up local government infrastructure in slum programmes, e.g. in the Palestinian territories, El Salvador and Colombia. This inspires self-help and self-confidence in the population and supports non-violent conflict resolution and better inter-personal relations.
- Re-integration: re-integration programmes for ex-combatants, including child soldiers, and refugees in Ruanda, Burundi and Congo with the help of vocational training, labour-intensive infrastructure projects, promotion of self-employment and empathetic psycho-social counselling.
Key Child and Youth Policy Aspects of the Coalition Agreement of 11 November 2005

The Coalition Agreement entitled “Working together for Germany – With courage and compassion” (Gemeinsam für Deutschland – Mit Mut und Menschlichkeit), which is dated 11 November 2005 and signed by the CDU, CSU and SPD parties, forms the basis for the Government’s work in the 16th legislative period. It contains numerous emphases relating to child, youth and family policies and these are summarised below.

The Preamble to the Coalition Agreement sets down in writing the general declarations of intent of the coalition partners. Reducing unemployment is thus stated as the core commitment of the Government’s policy, including “a further improvement in employment and job placement services”. Special efforts will be made to help the young unemployed. One prominent aim of the Government’s policy is to substantially improve the training and job opportunities available to young people and to reduce youth unemployment on a lasting basis. In detail, this means:

- The “National Pact for Vocational Training and Junior Professionals in Germany” (Nationaler Pakt für Ausbildung und Fachkräftenauchwuchs in Deutschland) will be continued. In this Pact, the Federal Government and employers have committed themselves to offering training places or an appropriate qualification programme to all young people willing and able to train. In concrete terms, this means providing 30,000 new trainee positions, 25,000 initiation training positions in industry and the crafts and trades sector, and tailored measures from the Bundesanstalt für Arbeit (Federal Employment Agency) to promote training.

- The unions are invited to take an active part in the training pact and to work together with politicians and industry to improve the conditions on the job market for young people.

- Finding employment and arranging training for young people looking for a job or an apprenticeship will remain a central task of the Federal Employment Agency. Measures include in particular the support of young people when entering vocational training, providing assistance during their training, financing vocational training for the disadvantaged and offering specific aid to young people with disabilities. Besides this, a broad spectrum of services will be provided to support the job placement of unemployed young people on the labour market.

- The Länder have a particular responsibility for initial training in schools.

- The new system of basic social entitlements for jobseekers envisages a consistent and proactive strategy particularly targeted at young employable people who are in need of assistance. These young people will be provided with a personal contact and job placement officer. In the future
and throughout Germany, job placement officers will each be assigned a maximum number of 75 young people, and the officers will thus be able to improve the jobseekers’ integration into the labour market thanks to their direct contact with them. The personal job placement officer can provide various forms of assistance – including debt and addiction counselling. International experience shows that such intensive support using personal contact officers can substantially reduce unemployment.

- According to the principle of “support and empowerment”, this intensive assistance is, however, associated with the duty of young people to fulfil the obligations set out in an individual integration agreement (Eingliederungsvereinbarung). Young people who do not fulfil these obligations must reckon with sanctions.

With regard to the **basic social entitlement for jobseekers** (“Hartz IV”), the following measures are envisaged:

- The “joint household” will be defined more precisely. In the future, unmarried children who have attained their majority but are below 25 years of age will generally be included in their parents’ joint household.
- Children under 25 years of age who wish to move into their own apartment for the first time in their lives may only receive benefits if they obtain prior permission to do so from the benefit payment agency. This is intended to prevent joint households being set up with the sole intention of claiming higher unemployment benefit II.
- In the future, young people in receipt of a grant under the Federal Education and Training Assistance Act (Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz, BAföG) or of a vocational training allowance will receive benefits from these systems that will cover their needs so that it will not be necessary to supplement them with unemployment benefit II.

**Education** is the key to individual opportunities in life and to cultural participation, to development and innovation. The participation of all in education and training is the essential precondition for ensuring that no talent is wasted. To achieve this, the education system as a whole must become more transparent and ensure better individual support.

The decisive factors that influence the development of a child are determined at the very beginning of its life. For this reason, all small children should receive improved and individual support. It is paramount that they learn to speak German before starting primary school.

Full-time, i.e. all-day education and schooling widen the opportunities for developing all talents and compensating for weaknesses. Moreover, full-time schemes will make it easier for the parents to reconcile family life with the demands of their jobs. Within the scope of the further expansion of all-day
schools, the capital expenditure programme entitled “Future, Education and Care” will form the core of the Government's policy.

The dual system of vocational training gives Germany an international competitive advantage. This system has generally been very successful and will receive continued support.

However, 17.1% of all 25-year-olds do not have any upper secondary level qualifications, i.e. they have neither completed vocational training nor have they gained any qualifications that would entitle them to enter higher education (Abitur). Youth unemployment remains an urgent problem, not only for the job market, but also for education policy in Germany, and it demands a solution. In connection with this, the coalition agreement formulates the goal that no young person under the age of 24 will remain jobless for more than three months. This is why it is intended to develop further the “National Pact for Vocational Training and Junior Professionals in Germany”, with the participation of industry and trade unions. The range of available vocational training opportunities will be expanded by means of graded vocational training rules in order to better meet young people's different levels of ability. Targeted measures will be adopted to encourage young people and entrepreneurs from migrant backgrounds to become involved in the German system of vocational training. Young people and adults without qualifications should be given a “second chance” to either return to education to acquire school-leaving certificates or to successfully complete their vocational training.

The measures to prepare young people starting off with fewer opportunities in life will be continued, as will the measures to improve their trainability and training maturity and to offer ongoing training support. The decisive criterion for the structural reorganisation of training preparation will be young people's individual needs.

In order to ensure that adequate account is taken of the dual system of vocational training within the European Union and that it remains internationally competitive, the Federal Government will play an active part in shaping European co-operation in vocational training and encouraging greater transparency and comparability in vocational education and training. This is intended to support the development of a European Qualifications Framework (EQF) as agreed under the “Copenhagen Process”, a European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) and the introduction of the Europass.

The Federal Government's road safety programme envisages in particular the support of especially vulnerable people, such as children and young novice drivers.

Owner-occupied housing, rented accommodation and cooperative housing remain the three pillars of housing provision. The policy objective will remain the promotion of home ownership for families with children. In the interests
of a future-oriented society, an active family policy must also support people’s wish to have children by providing suitable accommodation for families.

The Federal Government will continue the programme to develop Eastern Germany, thereby making a contribution towards achieving economically sustainable growth in the new Länder. The key objective of this programme is to achieve a reduction in unemployment. The Federal Government will, therefore, continue its high level of support for investments in Eastern Germany in order to secure existing jobs and create new ones. Furthermore, special emphases will be placed on education, training and research in order to promote innovation and to improve the competitiveness of Eastern German economic locations.

Training and employment mean participation in society, especially for young people. Not only from a social viewpoint, but also for economic reasons, further measures will be taken to provide young people from Eastern Germany with employment or training. When the labour market reforms are implemented, young people should be taken into consideration as a separate target group; the efforts of youth services should be better dovetailed with labour market policies when combining unemployment and social welfare benefits; and the Vocational Training Pact with industry will be further implemented. The programme of the Federal Government and the Länder for training opportunities in Eastern Germany will continue to be an indispensable part of the Vocational Training Pact.

The Federal Government intends to promote pilot projects in the new Länder in order to reverse the exodus of young people and to support their return to their home regions. It believes that local social factors play an important part in stopping young people from moving away from their home regions. One priority will be the promotion of education, starting with pre-school children.

Initiatives that are already underway to promote tolerance and moral courage will be continued and further developed.

Government policy on drugs and addiction will continue to be based on the four proven pillars of prevention, therapy, damage mitigation and repression. The basis of this policy is the Action Plan on Drugs and Addiction. The guidelines specified in the EU Drugs Strategy (2005–2012) for the reduction of supply and demand will be systematically implemented.

The Coalition Agreement reinforces the Federal Government’s goal of implementing a holistic policy for families, senior citizens, women and youth that promotes and strengthens cohesion between the generations and thus across society as a whole. The guiding idea behind this is to have more children in families and more families in society.

Family policy is based on the assumption that parents have to receive more support towards their primary responsibility of child-rearing and their parenting abilities. For families with particular social risks, this means devel-
oping programmes that provide the children with improved educational opportunities and mothers and fathers with basic parenting skills.

Young people have a right to education, a healthy upbringing, social participation and, in particular, protection from physical and mental harm. That is why these and other goals of the “National Action Plan for a Germany Fit for Children” (2005–2010) will be upheld. The objectives set will be implemented jointly with children, young people and their organisations.

The policy of gender equality is guided by the expectations and life plans of men and women in all areas of life. These days, women have better vocational qualifications than ever before. The aim of gender equality policy is to ensure better, non-discriminatory access to gainful employment which will secure a person’s livelihood, and to career opportunities for women. Children must no longer be an obstacle to a job and a career, which is why men and women have to be able to pursue both their gainful employment and their work in their families.

The coalition partners endorse the legal obligation to expand childcare services for children below the age of three, as specified in the Child Day-Care Expansion Act (Tagesbetreuungsausbaugesetz, TAG), as an essential social policy task for which the Federation also bears responsibility. By the year 2010, 230,000 additional day-care places will be created; by this time, a needs-related range of child-care facilities should be available for children under the age of three. The creation of a quality-oriented and needs-related programme for educational and day-care facilities for children of all ages is, therefore, one of the Federal Government’s most urgent and essential future-oriented projects.

That is why neighbourhood-based “focal points” will be established that offer support services for families and generations under one roof and from one source (Multi-Generational Centres Project). These are centres or houses that will be open to the neighbourhood and in which inter-generational solidarity can be experienced in everyday life. The centres will develop their own range of services for early learning, care, education and life skills. In addition, they will be the contact point, network and hub for family-oriented services, child-rearing and family counselling, health promotion, crisis intervention and the planning of support services. As part of early-childhood remedial education, the key focus will be on the following programmes:

- Child-care and educational services for children and parents (day-care/child-minding, integration and development) with particular emphasis on early learning, with extra provision in certain areas (e.g. nature, languages),
- counselling (e.g. on child-rearing issues, health),
- support in crisis situations (e.g. separation, excessive debt),
- further education (e.g. remedial language teaching),
- practical life skills (e.g. home management, cooking and nutrition) right through to support for (re-)entry into gainful employment.
Multi-generational centres (MHGs) are also intended to boost intergenerational cohesion. They will be open to the local community, generate civic commitment, revitalise intergenerational solidarity, foster the development of practical life skills and target the availability as well as the use of professional support to where it is needed. MHGs may be funded by the municipalities or the voluntary sector. In either case, agreements must be reached regarding the integration of the services provided with the public-sector youth service providers to ensure reliable and coordinated delivery of basic services.

As part of a pilot programme (seed model), an MGH should be set up in every county and city authority outside the county structure in Germany during this legislative period. Start-up funding should amount to € 40,000 per year over a five-year period, a total budgetary burden of € 88 million.

In order to give children facing social and health-related risks support from the very beginning, more dependable and better-networked assistance for socially disadvantaged and affected families has to be anchored in the the local community or district at an earlier stage. The state’s protective role must be reinforced, and social early warning systems developed. Youth services and preventive health services, as well as civil-society commitment, should be integrated to create a new quality in the early childhood support services provided to families. € 10 million has been set aside for implementing the “Early Support and Prevention for Children at Risk – Prevention Thanks to Early Support” project by 2010 and the project is intended to achieve the following:
- the improvement of child protection by establishing early warning systems and early assistance,
- the coordination of health services, youth welfare services and civil-society commitment,
- the strengthening of the state’s duty of care,
- the reinforcement of parenting skills and responsibility.

In order to create more family-friendly working conditions, the “Family-Friendly Working World” campaign is to highlight the the topic of parenthood, especially with regard to executives, and to put forward concrete proposals on how to achieve a better work-life balance in companies. A corporate programme prioritises the expansion of in-company and company-run childcare schemes and aims to dismantle bureaucratic obstacles, improve employees’ re-integration prospects during and after parental leave, and encourage family-friendly human resources policies, as well as promoting and implementing company-level and collective agreements to achieve a family-friendly working environment.

The “Local Alliances” initiative the idea of which should be continued, deserves mentioning in this connection. Municipalities, chambers of commerce, associations, the business community and social organisations work together successfully in the 200 local alliances that were in existence at the time of the
Coalition Agreement; their aim is to create attractive living conditions for families.

The “Responsible Child-Raising” initiative, primarily agreed with the two major churches, social welfare organisations and their respective child-care facilities, enhances the corporate-level alliance with measures to improve parenting skills and encourages value-based child-rearing.

These family policy-based measures are flanked by financial allowances to provide effective and sustainable financial support for families after the birth of their children. As of 2007, this will take the form of a parental allowance that avoids any interruption or slumps in income by providing a replacement income, offers a genuine choice between maternal or paternal care and contributes towards the economic independence of both parents, “and appropriate compensation of opportunity costs”.

In order to reduce material child poverty, the child allowance scheme will be developed further. It is intended to combat the risk of poverty, to increase the incentive to move out of unemployment, to avoid stigmatisation of those affected and to benefit children. The number of people entitled to claim the children's allowance is to be expanded in order to reach more children and to enable their parents to care for them without claiming unemployment benefit II.

With regard to shared custody rights and access rights (parent and child – legislation), the Coalition Agreement specified the intention of collaborating with the Länder to achieve improvements for the benefit of the child. This includes, amongst other things, holding hearings of all parties, especially of the child, at an early stage and providing information on counselling services. A further aim is the reduction of the duration of legal proceedings – if need be by means of tightening deadlines – and the strengthening of training and professional development for judges in family courts, who should be given appropriate support from the judicial administrations. Innovative procedures, in and out of court, to encourage co-operation between the parties in the enforcement of custody and access rights should be put to the test.

A whole section on “Youth” is devoted to the coalition’s political aims in youth welfare policy. The individual fields of policy are specified as follows: improvement in children’s and young people’s participation, equal opportunities in education, growing up without violence, opportunities for disadvantaged young people, young people for tolerance and democracy, as well as child and youth welfare.

Improving Children’s and Young People’s Participation

The participation of children and young people in policy-making, planning and future-oriented decision-making and design processes should be improved. The coalition agreement envisages further developing the activities designed to in-
crease participation together with youth associations, to create a public awareness of the importance of children’s rights, as well as to inform parents, teachers and educational specialists. Better participation of children and young people, i.e. the early involvement of children and young people in politics, is an important building-block in developing political awareness. Children and young people should be able to participate – in an age-appropriate way – in planning activities and projects that affect their interests. To achieve this, “examples of best practice” should be multiplied in co-operation with the Länder and municipalities, and the topic should be included in the long-term work undertaken at the federal level.

The European Union offers a new opportunity for the design of educational, occupational and life chances for young people. This requires not only the involvement of national youth policy actors in European policy-making, but also taking into account the European dimension when developing local, regional and national services aimed at children and young people. The “Pact for Youth” offers the best prospects in this case.

*Equal Opportunities in Education*

With regard to this issue, the Coalition Agreement demands that all policymakers make a decisive contribution to developing core qualifications for children, providing the necessary resources and deploying them efficiently. Children’s upbringing, care and education in families, day-care facilities and schools forms the framework for our children to grow and flourish in a rapidly changing world. However, the process of educating children and young people takes place in many different settings and is not bound to formal institutions. Besides families, schools and day-care facilities, youth services, arts education for young people, informal education processes within the peer group and media access are all relevant in this context.

The support provided under the Federal Child and Youth Plan should be reviewed to determine whether it is tailored to the specific situation of young people in Eastern Germany. Conditions should be improved so that young people can obtain training and jobs in their home regions.

A variety of measures – e.g. Girls’ Day and better career counselling – is to be extended to ensure that the range of careers open to girls and boys is expanded and that special priority is given to overcoming gender stereotypes.

*Growing up Without Violence*

The sustained measures adopted to eradicate child abuse and neglect will be effected in particular by improving prevention within the scope of international
and European co-operation and by means of innovative pilot projects that focus on crime prevention and improved victim protection.

The coalition partners undertake to achieve a lasting improvement in the protection afforded to children and young people. In view of the rapid developments in the field of new media, current legislation is insufficient to counteract the growing risks posed to young people by some of the new media.

The new regulations in the field of youth protection will be evaluated as quickly as possible – and well before March 2008, which was the date agreed – so that the necessary lessons can be learned in good time. The following key points will be discussed as priority issues in a target-oriented dialogue with the Länder:

- the effectiveness of “regulated self-regulation” as a concept,
- age restrictions for films and games/labelling of computer games as suitable for a specific age group
- reliable monitoring and security standards for automatic video libraries
- a ban on “killer games”.

The Federal Government is actively working at European and international level to develop and ensure compliance with minimum standards for the Internet.

In co-operation with consumer protection organisations, the Federal Government is encouraging financial institutions to undertake voluntary commitments to prevent young people from sliding into debt and also to provide guidance and support for indebted young people. Successful co-operation must aim to achieve a noticeable reduction in the debt burden of young people in Germany.

Opportunities for Disadvantaged Young People

The Federal Government's stated objective is to prepare, train and integrate young people into the workforce and employment on a sustainable basis. Combating youth unemployment, therefore, has top priority. The primary objective is to open up future-oriented educational, occupational and employment opportunities to young people. The agencies in the fields governed by Books II, III and VIII of the Social Code must coordinate their strategies and funding programmes more effectively and expand employment opportunities for young people, in conjunction with the business community.

Special consideration must be given to young people with individual social problems which make it difficult for them to enter the primary job market without assistance. Alongside the labour market agencies, the child and youth welfare agencies have a role to play here. Young people who leave school without any qualifications, especially those with a record of truancy, are an especially important target group in this context.
During the next funding period of the European Social Fund, measures targeted towards youth integration will also be supported by the Federal Government as one of the social policy priorities within the Federal-"Social City" programme.

**Young People for Tolerance and Democracy**

The Federal Government intends to make sustained efforts to maintain the campaign against right-wing extremism and xenophobia and for democracy and tolerance. It is its stated aim to develop young people’s understanding of our shared values and cultural diversity, and thus to promote respect for human rights and to combat every form of extremism, including left-wing extremism. This means widening the scope of action programmes and, at the same time, countering the growing levels of violence among young people.

The issues involved here are diversity, respect for others, democracy, tolerance and the fight against anti-Semitism. The Federal Government wants young people to feel motivated and to be able to count on reliable support for their commitment at local level. To this end, closer links are being developed with the Länder and municipalities, the media, churches, the business community, trade unions, sports clubs, youth organisations and many other agencies.

The Federal Government will also endeavour to develop a holistic integration strategy that not only focuses on access to the labour market, especially for socially disadvantaged young people and for young migrants in particular, but that also supports measures relating to social, cultural, religious, linguistic and country-specific diversity.

Positive prospects, a satisfactory quality of life and young people’s active participation in their community and society are important prerequisites in preventing their becoming affiliated to radical groups. The Länder and municipalities must be involved to a greater extent in order to ensure the project’s sustainability and longevity. The Federal Government is also striving to reinforce and intensify its dialogue with churches, faith communities and religious organisations.

**Child and Youth Services**

In the area of child and youth services, municipalities – which are responsible for child and youth welfare under Book VIII of the Social Code – must have broader scope for action in order to expand their range of prevention and outreach measures (priority should be given to prevention and not to remedial measures).

A productive shift in education policy requires the involvement and co-operation of all educational facilities. Only if targeted support is given to non-
school educational players – the family, the various branches of child and youth welfare, and occupational training – will it be possible to improve young people’s opportunities for education and participation.

The proposals put forward in the 12th National Child and Youth Report will be taken up and further developed. This involves improving structures for co-operation, fulfilling the educational mandates of the home, school and youth service agencies through joint responsibility, and exploiting their potential more effectively. The youth and education services will be coordinated more effectively and the Federation will drive forward networking and the transfer of good practice.

Young people’s individual and social skills will be developed and more extensively exploited through prevention work in the context of “peer group counselling”, e.g. through tutoring and mentoring projects in co-operation with youth organisations and schools.

Parenting skills should be reinforced through the adoption of a realignment in family education, and parents who are “remote from education” must also be reached; in this context, the new media should be more intensively deployed in the provision of parental education and advice.

The coalition partners agree to review the funding provided under the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation according to the criteria of impact, efficiency, fitness for purpose, and sustainability, and to comprehensively overhaul its funding structures. As a result, any funding structures and linkages that can no longer be justified must be modified. On the basis of this review, it is advocated that the work undertaken by the youth organisations must be secured in the long term.

In further sections of the Coalition Agreement, the coalition parties advocate strengthening civil society and voluntary civic commitment. Without the strong voluntary commitment of citizens to the development of community relations, society cannot survive. This means that further measures to support an active civil society, e.g. by promoting civic commitment, will be adopted. Civil society initiatives targeted towards conflict prevention and the integration of migrants, as well as those which aim to prevent and eradicate extremism, will be supported. Besides traditional forms of civic commitment, the state is also expressly committed to new forms of citizens’ participation in activities that promote the common good and will provide appropriate support for this purpose.

In order to promote volunteering, the conditions will be put in place to offer better opportunities to make use of the potential of applicants to the voluntary services. This includes improving the legal framework based on the ongoing evaluation of the law, expanding the number of places available, providing support for services abroad, harmonising social and residency provisions, and focusing more intensively on the arts and sport.
In light of demographic change, it is clear that the expansion of voluntary youth services alone will not be enough. That is why in addition to boosting civic commitment, the intergenerational voluntary services will be expanded as a programme.

The coalition parties have also agreed to focus more closely on the issue of healthy eating and more exercise with the involvement of all age groups and various institutes, as well as the Länder. In particular, this concerns responsibility of business towards children and young people in advertising. Obesity and malnutrition are problems that affect all levels of society and require joint solutions. Children and young people are particularly affected by this.

The Federal Government will advocate at European level that the school milk programme be further developed into a “healthy school meals” initiative.

In this context, the role of sport will be reinforced. Sport engages people and promotes social integration. It should be used and supported to a greater degree as an antidote to the increasing lack of exercise among children and young people in particular. The backbone of German sport are the clubs which, in turn, depend on the dedication of many volunteers. That is why the Federal Government wishes to further promote mass and top-level sport, as well as sport for the disabled.

The integration of foreigners and ethnic German immigrants into German society is a broad-ranging task involving many areas of policy. The Federal Government will conduct an intensive dialogue with the major Christian churches, as well as with Jews and Moslems. An interreligious and intercultural dialogue is not only an important part of integration policy and civic education; it also serves to prevent and combat racism, anti-Semitism and extremism. The dialogue with Islam is especially important in this connection. Within this context, clearly naming the differences that separate the partners in the dialogue is a vital sign of mutual respect. This dialogue will only succeed if we better integrate young Moslems in particular both into society and into the world of work.

The intercultural skills in child and youth services have to be strengthened. The special situation of migrant children must be taken into consideration when developing and reshaping the range of educational and childcare facilities in and outside school so that they, too, have a chance of gaining good qualifications. Closely involving parents in schools and other institutions is particularly important for migrant children. As well as better co-operation with migrant organisations, youth migration services must be developed further and co-operation between educational institutions and childcare facilities, as well as child and youth services, must be enhanced in an education partnership.

With regard to the integration process for women of foreign origin, their equal participation in political, economic and cultural life takes priority, as well as teaching them the German language so that they can enter education and
the world of work. The equality of women and men will be included as a key focus in the measures for an interreligious dialogue. Forced marriages will not be tolerated and will be made an offence under the Criminal Code.

Legal policy creates a balance between people’s need for security and their right to freedom as guaranteed under the Basic Law. The coalition intends to close any loopholes in criminal law. Stalking is becoming ever more frequent and has a dramatic impact on a victim’s life and will, therefore, be made an offence in its own right. Likewise, thanks to the possibilities offered by criminal law, the victims of forced prostitution will receive better protection and the prosecution of their clients will be better regulated.

Due to numerous amendments in recent times, criminal law in respect of sexual offences has become increasingly obscure and is not always practicable. That is why a radical reform of this area of criminal law will be striven for with a view to eliminating contradictions and unclear terminology.

A parliamentary bill will be introduced to provide a reliable basis for the pre-trial detention of adults and young prisoners. The execution of sentences against juvenile offenders will be placed on a reliable legal basis. It should also be possible to impose retroactive protective custody in particularly serious cases, including those of juvenile offenders convicted of the most serious crimes against life, physical integrity or sexual self-determination.

A working group will be set up to review the legal provisions on judicial measures in cases where the welfare of a child is at risk (in particular sections 1666 and 1631 of the Civil Code and section 34 of the Juvenile Courts Act (JGG)) with the aim of facilitating the imposition of measures by family courts relating to children and young people with severe behavioural disorders, and especially young and adolescent offenders. In particular, the aim is to oblige parents or legal guardians to take advantage of the assistance provided by the youth welfare services, to take corrective measures which will have an impact on the behaviour of children or young people and, if necessary, to put them into supervised accommodation.

Local Government Central Associations at Federal Level

The three local government central associations at federal level – the German Association of Cities (Deutscher Städtetag), the German County Association (Deutscher Landkreistag) and the Association of Regional and/or Local Authorities (Gemeindebund) – represent the interests of their members, towns, municipalities and counties vis-à-vis the Federal Government, the Bundestag (Lower House of the German Parliament), the Bundesrat (Upper House of the German Parliament) and numerous organisations, associations and institutions.
1. *Deutscher Städtetag*
(German Association of Cities)

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The German Association of Cities is a voluntary union of just under 4,700 towns in the Federal Republic of Germany comprising a total of 51 million inhabitants. The city *Länder* Berlin, Bremen and Hamburg, all towns that are administrative districts in their own right and many towns that are part of counties are members of the German Association of Towns and Cities. Some of them are direct members of this central association of municipalities and some are indirect members via the municipal associations in the *Länder*. In addition, eleven regional and professional associations are extraordinary members.

The German Association Cities was founded in 1905 and re-founded as early as 1945 after the end of the World War II. It actively devotes itself to ensuring that the Federal and regional governments, as well as the European Union, take into account the local self-government guaranteed in Article 28 Para. 2 of the Basic Law, the German constitution. Its participation in the legislation of the Federation is guaranteed by the internal rules and procedures of the Bundestag and the Federal Ministries. This ensures that municipal interests are taken into consideration. The German Association of Cities thus contributes to the development of an administration that both meets the requirements of real life situations and is ‘user-friendly’ for the common citizen.

The German Association of Cities has three main tasks: active representation of the interests of its member towns vis-à-vis the Federal Government, the *Bundestag*, the *Bundesrat* and numerous organisations and associations; advising and informing its member towns regarding all developments that are significant to municipalities; and the creation and funding of the exchange of experiences between its member towns and in numerous committees.

The German Association of Cities provides its member towns and cities with new knowledge and practical solutions so that they may accomplish their tasks. Its work is, on the one hand, determined by the current problems in the local
policies and, on the other, it is oriented towards longer-term trends. To this end, the activities of the German Association of Cities are mainly founded on the numerous queries and suggestions of its member towns and the municipal and professional associations that co-operate with it.

Furthermore, the German Association of Cities represents the interests of its member towns in legislative procedures by submitting opinions and lobbying.

Department IV is responsible for Labour, Youth and Social Affairs. Youth issues are debated by the expert committee for social affairs, youth and the family.

MEMBERS
The German Association of Cities unites just under 4,700 towns. Its direct members include 214 towns, amongst them all towns that are administrative districts in their own right including the city states of Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen. The other towns are indirect members via the municipal associations in the Länder.
Added to this are higher-level municipal associations, regional and specialist associations as extraordinary members:

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<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund
(German Association of Towns and Municipalities)

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The German Association of Towns and Municipalities was created by the amalgamation of the Imperial Federation of German Towns (Reichsverbund Deut-
scher Städte – founded in 1910) and the Imperial Federation of the German Rural Communities (Reichsverband der Deutschen Landgemeinden – established in 1922). The German Association of Towns and Municipalities represents the interests of the local self-government of towns and communities that belong to districts in Germany and Europe (since 1991, particularly through the European Office in Brussels). Its member associations represent more than 12,500 towns and communities in Germany with more than 47 million inhabitants.

The tasks of the German Association of Towns and Municipalities include representing municipal interests, the targeted integration of opinions relating to policies that affect municipalities and ongoing participation in federal advisory bodies. As a municipal information network, the association ensures a permanent exchange of experience between towns and communities that belong to districts and raises public awareness and mobilisation regarding issues affecting municipal policies. Finally, the German Association of Towns and Municipalities is represented in many organisations (including the Deutscher Sparkassen- und Giroverband (German Savings Bank Association), the Deutsche Krankenhausgesellschaft (German Hospital Federation), the Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e. V. (German Association for Public and Private Welfare) that serve or promote municipal interests.

Within the German Association of Towns and Municipalities, Department I – Legislation, Constitution, Social Affairs, Youth and Health – is responsible for issues relating to child, youth and family policy. In addition, youth-related tasks are attended to by the committee for youth, social affairs and health.

The association is organised on a federal basis and has no party-political affiliations. Membership is voluntary. The allocation of seats on the statutory bodies depends on the way voters vote in local elections. The work of the German Association of Towns and Municipalities is independent of government grants.

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The German County Association, the Deutscher Landkreistag (DLT), is the amalgamation of the 323 German counties at federal level. It represents 74% of the municipal administrative authorities, around 96% of the area and, with just under 56 million inhabitants, 68% of the population of Germany. It also sees itself in particular as an advocate of the rural regions and thus of the interests of the regions outside the major cities.

In line with the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany, direct members of the organisation, which was founded in 1916 as the Association of Prussian District Authorities, are the county associations in the 13 Länder that are not city states. The administrative districts that belong to Land associations are indirect members. Furthermore, the following are also members of the German County Association: the Municipal Social Association of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Kommunaler Sozialverband Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), the Municipal Association for Youth and Social Affairs of Baden-Württemberg (Kommunalverband für Jugend und Soziales Baden-Württemberg), the Land Welfare Association of Hesse (Landeswohlfahrtsverband Hessen), the Municipal Social Service Association of Saxony (Kommunaler Sozialverband Sachsen), the Regional Authorities of the Rhineland and Westphalia-Lippe (Landschaftsverbände Rheinland und Westfalen-Lippe), the Regional Association of the
Ruhr (Regionalverband Ruhr) as well as the Association of Bavarian Districts (Verband der bayerischen Bezirke).

The central task of the German County Association consists in fostering the guarantee of local self-government as warranted to the counties in Basic Law, to cultivate the exchange of experience between the counties and to bring to bear the joint concerns of the local bodies vis-à-vis the state and the public. The main focus of its work hereby lies in the representation of the interests of the rural region. It is the development of peripheral regions in particular that is still under considerable threat, especially in view of the demographic change that is taking place.

The safeguarding and establishment of equal living, supply, work, administrative and development conditions in relation to the municipal area is therefore one of the most important goals of the association. A further key task is the commitment of the counties in their capacity as agencies of social, child and youth welfare services in the field of social services as well as local labour market policies.

Within the scope of its tasks, the German County Association participates at the federal level in numerous bodies that are concerned with youth policies, such as the following: the Advisory Committee for Education and Training Assistance (Beirat für Ausbildungsförderung) at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung), the Federal Agency for Publications Harmful to Youth (Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Schriften), the German Association for Public and Private Welfare (Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge), the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut) and IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB – Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland).

With the German County Association, Department V – Social Affairs, Youth and Education – is responsible for youth welfare and employment issues.

MEMBERS

The German County Association has direct, indirect and honorary members. In line with the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German County Association is also organised on a federal basis. Its direct members are the associations of counties in the 13 Länder that are not city states. Its indirect members are the counties that belong to regional associations (Landesverbände).

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In legislation, the Länder are allocated those areas that are not fulfilled by the Federation or that are not assigned to the Federation in the Basic Law. This means that the predominant part of the education system and cultural policy as an expression of “cultural sovereignty” falls to the Länder as an object of the legislation. In addition, there are the issues of local law and the police.

The real strength of the Länder lies in administration and in participating in the legislation of the Federation via the Bundesrat, the Länder representation of
the German parliament. The Länder are responsible for all internal administration. At the same time, their administrative machinery is responsible for implementing most federal laws and regulations.

The Highest Youth Authorities have the task of encouraging and fostering the work of the public and voluntary youth welfare bodies and the further development of youth welfare. The Länder must work towards an equal expansion of the facilities and services on offer and to support the youth offices and regional youth offices in carrying out their tasks.

Book VIII of the Social Code - Child and Youth Welfare - obliges the Länder to establish a Landesjugendamt (Land Youth Office) made up of the Landesjugendhilfeausschuss (Land Youth Service Committee) and the administration of the Land Youth Office. The tasks of the Youth Office or the Land Youth Office are carried out by the Youth Service Committee or the Land Youth Service Committee and the administration of the Youth Office or the Land Youth Office (section 70 subs. 1 and 3 of Book III of the Social Code).

The Law Amending the Basic Law (reform of the federal structure) that came into force on 1 September 2006 grants the Länder in Article 84 Para. 1 sentence 2 of the Basic Law the chance to derogate from regulations in federal law regarding the constitution of authorities, and thus from the specifications of the Social Code Book VIII regarding the bipartite organisation of the Youth Office or the Land Youth Office.

**Jugend- und Familienministerkonferenz (JFMK)
(Conference of Ministers of Youth and Family Affairs)**

The Conference of Ministers of Youth and Family Affairs is the expert body consisting of the ministers and senators in charge of child, youth and family policy in the Länder. The Conference of Ministers of Youth was expanded in 2006 to include the issue of family policy and was renamed the “Conference of Ministers of Youth and Family Affairs (JFMK)”. This meant that issues relating to child, youth and family policies all came under the umbrella of a single conference of ministers.

The JFMK deliberates on important and fundamental issues of child, youth and family policy. Together, legal, technical and political issues – e.g. on strengthening families, the work-life balance, on youth services, day-care facilities, help in raising children or on youth protection – are discussed and appropriate resolutions passed. The safeguarding of the interests of young people and their families form the focal point here. The resolutions of the JFMK are intended to improve the living conditions of children, young people and their parents, to develop the legal framework further and to strengthen families.
The resolutions of the “Working Party of the Highest Youth and Family Authorities of the Länder” (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der obersten Landesjugend- und Familienbehörden, AGJF) are prepared by representatives of the ministries of the Länder.

Once a year, the JFMK meets at a two-day conference. In some Länder, the fields of child, youth and family policy are integrated in one department, while in others they are distributed across various ministries. That is why some Länder have two ministers to represent them at the JFMK.

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IN OVERALL CONTROL IN 2008

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THE LÄNDER LEVEL
Arbeitsgemeinschaft der obersten Landesjugend- und Familienbehörden (AGJF)
(Working Party of the Highest Youth and Family Authorities of the Länder)

The Working Party of the Highest Youth and Family Authorities of the Länder (AGJF) supports the Conference of Ministers for Youth and Family Affairs (JFMK) in all matters pertaining to child, youth and family policy, does the preparatory work for this conference and ensures that the decisions made are implemented.

In this socio-politically important area, the AGJF coordinates the technical development of child and youth welfare insofar as it is necessary to do so within the federal system of the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition, it prepares the expert coordination of the Länder relating to the further development of child and youth law as well as issues pertaining to family policies. The Working Party of the Highest Youth and Family Authorities of the Länder meets twice a year.

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IN OVERALL CONTROL IN 2008

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Internet: www.thueringen.de/tmisg

SAARLAND  
Ministerium für Inneres, Familie, Frauen und Sport des Saarlandes  
Franz-Josef-Röder-Str. 21, D–66119 Saarbrücken,  
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E-Mail: poststelle@innen.saarland.de,  
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Tel.: +49 681 501–7404, Fax: +49 681 501–7500,  
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SAXONY-ANHALT  
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Internet: www.ms.sachsen-anhalt.de

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Internet: www.thueringen.de/de/tkm/
The Working Party of the Länder Youth Offices (BAGLJÄ) is the amalgamation of the 17 Land Youth Offices in Germany that undertake supra-regional youth welfare tasks in their respective areas. Due to their intensive contact and cooperation with local organs, as well as with the facilities of voluntary providers in the twin structure as an administration and as a committee, the Land Youth Offices act as a central interface between their orientation towards youth service policies, specialist scientific development and the need for local youth service practice for expert guidance.

Co-operation in BAGLJÄ covers all areas of youth services and serves the aim of ensuring and developing further the specialist standards in practice by means of mutual consultation on matters of principles and the development of joint recommendations regarding the individual spheres of action and campaigning for the needs of young people and their families. BAGLJÄ puts forward opinions on bills relevant to youth services at federal level, takes up the cause of the interests of public youth services, in particular as a member of expert panels of federal agencies, and works together with specialised organisations and panels in the sphere of public and voluntary youth services.

The first meeting of North Western German youth offices of the Länder in Düsseldorf on 13 and 14 December 1954 is regarded as the foundation date. In the following years, it expanded to include all Länder and, since the 8th meeting in Wiesbaden in 1960, they have met under the name of “Federal Working Party of the Youth Offices and Welfare Educational Authorities”. In the course of the restructuring of the Child and Youth Services Act (KJHG), the “supra-regional educational authorities” were dispensed with; at the same time, the Land Youth Offices of the new Länder were added so that the union today presents itself as the “Working Party of the Youth Offices of the Länder”.

The members of BAGLJÄ hold workshops every six months. Committees are responsible for the comments, resolutions and recommendations. With regard to individual key issues, symposia are held in which a lively exchange of experience takes place and central issues for specialist workers in the regional youth offices are put on a broader, more technical basis. The management (“office in charge”) is based in the respective administration to which the BAGLJÄ chair belongs.

The emphasis of the technical work is primarily oriented towards the particular remits of the regional youth offices as specified in section 85 subs. 2 of Book VIII of the Social Code. Thus the development of legislation with regard to youth welfare, family law and adjoining fields of law, and the problems involved in implementing them, are often discussed at the workshops. Important thematic resolutions include the field of residential care, and particularly...
the so-called supervision of homes (sections 45 et seqq. of Book VIII of the Social Code) which has developed into an instrument of quality development and assurance.

The stipulation and enforcement of a minimum level of pedagogical work in child and youth welfare facilities is indispensable to ensure the well-being of the child. The updated “Recommendations on Placement in Adoption” set standards that even legal practice makes use of today. Comments on the supply of qualified personnel, on the foster children system, on the design of day-care facilities, on guardianship, intensive pedagogical services abroad, on issues of reimbursement of costs, on youth welfare planning, quality development in youth services represent the breadth of the specialised issues.

The office currently in charge of BAGLJÄ is based at the Bavarian Centre for the Family and Social Affairs (Zentrum Bayern Familie und Soziales) at the Bavarian Land Youth Office (Bayerisches Landesjugendamt).

The latest versions of the resolutions and recommendations of BAGLJÄ are available online at www.bagljae.de.

LAND YOUTH OFFICES ACCORDING TO THE LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY OF THE YOUTH OFFICES OF THE LÄNDER

IN OVERALL CONTROL OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE YOUTH OFFICES OF THE LÄNDER:

Bavarian Centre for the Family and Social Affairs (Zentrum Bayern Familie und Soziales – ZBFS)
Bayerisches Landesjugendamt
P.O. Box 400260, D–80702 München, Winzererstr. 9, D–80797 München, Tel.: +49 89 1261–0, Fax: +49 89 1261–2280, E-Mail: poststelle@zbfs-bja bayern.de, Internet: www.bagljae.de
Kommunalverband für Jugend und Soziales Baden-Württemberg
Landesjugendamt, P.O. Box 106022, D–70049 Stuttgart, Lindenspürstr. 39, D–70176 Stuttgart, Tel.: +49 711 6375–0, Fax: +49 711 6375–449, Internet: www.kvjs.de
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Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Soziales, Jugend und Familie Außenstelle Hannover, Fachgruppe Kinder, Jugend und Familie, Am Waterloopl. 11, D–30169 Hannover, Tel.: +49 511 106–0, Fax: +49 511 106–7522 Internet: www.soziales.niedersachsen.de
THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

The discussion on child and youth policies takes place on a municipal level in a spatially direct and socially concrete relationship with regard to services and agencies of local child and youth welfare. Child and youth welfare services are generally located close to the children and young people concerned. Book VIII of the Social Code transfers the entire responsibility for child and youth welfare into the hands of the counties and towns that do not belong to any county, who are obliged to set up a youth office (see Graphic 4). The law also offers a graduated, successive system of services in partnership with local public and voluntary child and youth welfare agencies.

Pursuant to Book VIII of the Social Code, the organisational unit of the public child and youth services at local level is the Land Youth Office. From planning, guarantee and financing viewpoints, the Land Youth Office is the central child and youth service institution.

With regard to the administrative level to which the municipal youth office belongs, a distinction is made between the County Youth Office (Kreisjugendamt, county level), the Municipal Youth Office (all towns that are administrative districts in their own right), the “regionalised youth office” (in a town that is part of a county) as well as the District Youth Office (Bezirksjugendamt – in the districts of the city Länder).
The work of the **Youth Offices** is carried out with reference to Book VIII of the Social Code pertaining to child and youth welfare and charged with the administration and safeguarding of the tasks and services legally specified in Book VIII of the Social Code. In contrast to other specialist authorities, Book VIII of the Social Code orders that the duties of the Youth Office have to be carried out by the Youth Service Committee and the administration of the Youth Office.

While the **administration of the Youth Office** carries out the resolutions and laws with the professional skills of its staff, the **Youth Service Committee** is to be regarded as the part that exercises locally the management function of the child and youth services. The Youth Service Committee attends to all matters related to youth welfare, particularly with the discussion of current problems of young people and their families, as well as with suggestions and proposals for developing youth service, youth service planning and the further promotion of voluntary youth services.

The participation of voluntary youth welfare services in the the Youth Service Committee is intended to ensure that they codetermine decision-making regarding the youth policy of the local regional administrative body in the interest of young people and their families. Voluntary youth welfare agencies are assigned a share of the responsibility in carrying out the tasks of youth welfare by means of the comprehensive consultation competence of the Youth Service Committee in all matters of child and youth welfare as well as its resolution, hearing and application rights (section 71 subs. 2 and 3 of Book VIII of the Social Code). The position of voluntary youth services as an equal, independent partner of public youth services as specified in sections 3 and 4 of Book VIII of the Social Code is thus realised in the Youth Service Committee.

The participation of voluntary bodies in the Youth Service Committee also represents one of the framework conditions necessary to establish and maintain a wide range of services. Furthermore, the Youth Service Committee is an important tool to strengthen civil society commitment, and offers a platform for civil activity – indispensable for the youth service administration and municipal youth policy – that directly involves the interests of families, children, young people and parents when developing solutions and action plans.

The Youth Office is the partner for family, guardianship and juvenile courts, the police, public prosecution services and the like, a clearly defined point of contact for welfare recipients, and a central contact partner for assistance and protection in cases of children at risk. Co-operation between the youth office and the various branches of the judiciary is not only a practical requirement in view of effective child and youth protection, but is also specified in law in various places (e.g. in sections 49 and 49a of the Act on Matters concerned with Non-contentious Litigation (Gesetzes über die Angelegenheiten der freiwilligen Gerichtsbarkeit), section 21b of the Civil Status Act (Personenstandsgesetz),
section 7 of the Adoption Arrangement Act (Adoptionsvermittlungsgesetz),
sections 38 and 50 of the Juvenile Courts Act (Jugendgerichtsgesetz) and
sections 1712, 1748, 1791b and 1791c of the German Civil Code (BGB)).

Since the Youth Service Committees are responsible for the technical aspects
of youth service planning, they are thus the hub for the establishment, promotion
and modification of child and youth welfare services.

The duties of the youth services – and thus of the Youth Office – are defined
in Book VIII of the Social Code as “services and other tasks in the interest of
young people and families”.

The services provided by youth welfare services are:
- Services offered by youth services, youth social work and educational child
  and youth protection
- Services to promote child-rearing in the family
- Services to promote children in day-care centres and child-minding facili-
  ties.
- Help in raising children and supplementary benefits
- Help for mentally disabled children and young people as well as supplemen-
  tary services.
- Help for young people who have reached their majority and follow-up
  support.

Other tasks of the Youth Office include:
- The taking into care of children and young people. This means temporary
  accommodation with a suitable person, either in a facility or in some other
  supervised form of accommodation.
- The removal of a child or young person from a residential environment.
- Participation in proceedings held before guardianship or family courts.
- Giving counsel and instruction in proceedings regarding the adoption of the
  child.
- Participating in proceedings according to the Juvenile Courts Act.
- Advising and supporting carers and guardians.
- Official guardianship, assistance and supervisory co-guardianship of the
  Youth Office.

The youth services are characterised by the multitude of agencies that are guid-
ed by many different values and the variety of contents, methods and forms of
work which they display. Youth services are provided by voluntary youth
service providers. Other tasks are carried out by public youth service pro-
viders.

The organisational structure of the child and youth services is characterised
by a multitude of different bodies and different organisational forms. While
the public bodies belong to the public administration, the voluntary agencies
display a multitude of organisational forms.
In numerous towns and counties, administrative reforms intended to create closer proximity to the citizens and improve effectiveness as well as economic efficiency are currently being pushed through. Restructuring processes offer youth services the opportunity to review whether their organisational structures meet the current needs of the youth services, as well as fulfilling the criteria of efficiency and effectiveness, and thus to develop the organisational structures of the Youth Office accordingly. Youth Offices therefore have a genuine interest in participating in the debate regarding the restructuring of the administration and in opening up to them.

In response to the challenges facing youth services that have arisen in the last few years, several Youth Offices have taken on as a guide to their work the model of “orientation to the social space” (Sozialraumorientierung). The implementation of the concept of “social space” comprises methodological reorientation, associated structural and organisational issues and an amended understanding of management. The orientation of those addressed and important issues come ever more to the fore here. As a result, the structures and the services offered by the Youth Offices have changed and will continue to do so in the coming years, the main focus being on the management function.

In the light of the restructuring of the Youth Offices, the close and mandatory coordination of qualified people for youth service planning and of the Youth Office staff responsible for specialist issues is the pre-requisite not only for the implementation and further development of standards in the social areas, but also for the precise adjustment of projects and measures related to a specific field to fit in with the agreed goals and desired effects.

One basic requirement for high quality in youth service planning, and thus for the efficiency of the Youth Office, is the effectiveness of the collaboration between the administration of the Youth Office and the Youth Service Committee. The better the administration and the Youth Service Committee work together, the better the transfer into other political decision-making levels, and the more effective the lobbying work for children and young people.
APPENDIX: GRAPHICS

Graphic 1: Child and Youth Plan of the Federation

**Child and Youth Plan of the Federation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting goals and programmes</th>
<th>Support procedures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political education</td>
<td>Direct procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth social work</td>
<td>Central providers procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality of girls and boys, work with girls and boys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people with disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance for young people and families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance for children</td>
<td>Länder procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of children and young people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved use of the media</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with youth organisations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child and youth services provided by voluntary social service providers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further education</td>
<td>Types of support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New approaches in child and youth services, evaluation, innovation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International youth work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International study programmes for child and youth services professionals and social workers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of young people with a migrant background</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction, acquisition, equipment and maintenance of child and youth service facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and opportunities for young people in social hot spots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other support measures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Guidelines of the BMFSF 19 December 2000**

APPENDIX: GRAPHICS

Graphic 2: Structure of Child and Youth Services ...

Key:
- Direct connection within the given sphere of activities
- Delegates sent to decision-making bodies
- Nomination
... in the Federal Republic of Germany

Statutory Child and Youth Services

**Federal Level**

- German Bundestag
  - Bundestag Committee for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
  - Children's Committee of the Bundestag
- Federal Government
  - Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
  - Working Party of the Highest Youth and Family Authorities of the Länder
- German Bundesrat

**Federal State Level**

- Federal Youth Board
  - Land Government or Senate
  - Land Youth Services Committee
  - Highest Youth Authority of the Land
  - Youth Office of the Land
  - Association of Local Authorities at Federal Level

**Municipality or District Level**

- Town/County/municipal council
  - Town/County Youth Services
  - Town/County/municipal authority
  - Town/County Youth Office

### Graphic 3: Position of Child and Youth Services Legislation in Federal Legislation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEGAL DOMAIN</th>
<th>ACT(S)</th>
<th>INTERFACES TO CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td>Basic Law (Grundgesetz, GG)</td>
<td>Legislative powers of the Federation, parental child-raising responsibility guardianship function of the state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Law</td>
<td>Civil Code (Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch, BGB)</td>
<td>Parental custody, access rights, child maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Act on Matters concerned with Non-contentious Litigation (Gesetz über die Angelegenheiten der freiwilligen Gerichtsbarkeit, FGG)</td>
<td>Involvement of the Youth Office in proceedings before the Juvenile Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Law</td>
<td>Social Code, Book I (Sozialgesetzbuch Erstes Buch, SGB I)</td>
<td>Overview of social rights/entitlements, benefits for citizens, catalogue of social welfare benefits and providers, basic legislative provisions on benefits/services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Code, Book X (Sozialgesetzbuch Zehntes Buch, SGB X)</td>
<td>Administrative processes, data protection and cooperation with other providers of social benefits/services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Code, Book II (Sozialgesetzbuch Zweites Buch, SGB II)</td>
<td>Benefits/services for the integration of young people in the labour market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Code, Book III (Sozialgesetzbuch Drittes Buch, SGB III)</td>
<td>Benefits/services to support vocational training and further education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Code, Book IX (Sozialgesetzbuch Neuntes Buch, SGB IX)</td>
<td>Youth services as a provider of rehabilitation services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Code, Book XII (Sozialgesetzbuch Zwölftes Buch, SGB XII)</td>
<td>Cost-of-living benefit, support for the integration of children and young persons with physical or mental disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption Placement Act (Adoptionsvermittlungsgesetz)</td>
<td>Youth Offices and Land Youth Offices as adoption placement agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Act on Advance Maintenance Payments (Unterhaltsvorschussgesetz)</td>
<td>Cost-of-living benefit for children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal Parenting Benefit and Parental Leave Act (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz)</td>
<td>Support for children in day-care centres and childminding facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Protection Act (Jugendschutzgesetz)</td>
<td>Protection of children and young people in public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Protection of Young Persons at Work Act (Jugendarbeitsschutzgesetz)</td>
<td>Protection of children and young people in training and employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strafrecht</td>
<td>Juvenile Courts Act (Jugendgerichtsgesetz)</td>
<td>Instructions, youth custody, juvenile detention, Involvement of the Youth Office in court proceedings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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THE YOUTH OFFICE

HEAD OF THE YOUTH OFFICE

- Administration
  central management • planning • controlling • organisation •
  human resources • finance • public relations

- Day-care for children
  funding and operation of facilities • child-minding • specialist
  counselling

- General support
  funding and operation of facilities • youth work • youth social
  work and socio-educational services for young people • family
  support

- Social Services
  socio-educational services for childraising and education •
  adoptions • social services support in juvenile and family court
  proceedings • guardianship by the Youth Office/curatorship

- Central facilities
  counselling centre • informal youth education centre • home

YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Youth Services Committee deals with all matters of child and youth services and in
particularly with:
- counselling of young people and families with problems
- proposals for the development of child and youth services
- youth service planning
- funding of and public support for voluntary youth service agencies

Composition of the Youth Services Committee:
- 2/5 of the members are representatives of voluntary youth service providers; youth
  organisations, welfare organisations, religious communities, associations
- 3/5 of the members are representatives of the local council
PART II
INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS
Deutscher Bundesjugendring  
*German Federal Youth Council*

Bayerischer Jugendring  
*Bavarian Youth Council*

Bremer Jugendring / Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Bremer Jugendverbände e. V.  
*Youth Council of Bremen/Regional Working Party of Youth Organisations in Bremen*

Hessischer Jugendring e. V.  
*Youth Council of Hesse*

Kinder- und Jugendring Sachsen e. V.  
*Children and Youth Council of Saxony*

Kinder- und Jugendring Sachsen-Anhalt e. V.  
*Children and Youth Council of Saxony-Anhalt*

Landesjugendring Baden-Württemberg e. V.  
*Regional Youth Council of Baden-Württemberg*

Landesjugendring Berlin e. V.  
*Berlin Regional Youth Council*

Landesjugendring Brandenburg e. V.  
*Regional Youth Council Brandenburg*

Landesjugendring Hamburg e. V.  
*Hamburg Regional Youth Council*

Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e. V.  
*Regional Youth Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania*

Landesjugendring Niedersachsen e. V.  
*Regional Youth Council of Lower Saxony*

Landesjugendring Nordrhein-Westfalen e. V.  
*Regional Youth Council of Northrhine-Westphalia*

Landesjugendring Rheinland-Pfalz e. V.  
*Regional Youth Council of Rhineland-Palatinate*

Landesjugendring Saar e. V.  
*Regional Youth Council of the Saarland*

Landesjugendring Schleswig-Holstein e. V.  
*Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein*

Landesjugendring Thüringen e. V.  
*Regional Youth Council of Thuringia*
The German Federal Youth Council was founded on 3 October 1949 as a working party of youth organisations with nationwide activities on the one hand, and Land youth councils on the other. At present (2007), its membership includes 24 youth organisations, the 16 Länder youth councils and five associate members. The associate members have consultation status in the structures of the German Federal Youth Council.

The youth organisations forming the German Federal Youth Council have different aims and orientations. The spectrum of its affiliated organisations ranges from denominational organisations to scouting, ecological, cultural and humanitarian organisations as well as youth organisations of the workers' movement. The common focus of their work – despite existing differences – is young people and how young people deal with the challenges of their everyday lives. The youth organisations are independent in their activities and free from state intervention; instead they receive public funding pursuant to the Child and Youth Services Act.

The mission of the German Federal Youth Council may be summarised as covering three focal areas: representing the interests of young people and the common concerns of its member organisations in public and especially vis-à-vis parliament and the government; ensuring the information flow among its affiliated organisations so that they have an opportunity to harmonise their positions especially on issues of youth policy; co-operating with foreign youth organisations; and international youth policy.

The German Federal Youth Council is active in commissions and working groups, releases position papers on Acts of Parliament and the youth reports, and issues public positions on current issues of youth work and youth policy.

The international youth work of the German Federal Youth Council primarily takes place on the bilateral level. In addition, the German Federal Youth Council and the Council of Political Youth Organisations (Ring Politischer Jugend) form the German National Committee for International Youth Work (Deutsches Nationalkomitee für internationale Jugendarbeit, DNK), which keeps in touch with youth structures from around the world. DNK's work is primarily focused on co-operation with European youth organisations. DNK is a member of the European Youth Forum.

The German Federal Youth Council and its member organisations strive towards the realisation of the millennium development goals in the awareness of all young people and to support them with selected projects. Furthermore, the establishment of effective representation structures for youth policy in Central and Eastern European countries and the discussion of developments in the European Union play an important role in its activities.

The constitutional bodies of the German Federal Youth Council are its General Assembly, its Central Committee and its Executive Board. Resolutions of a fundamental nature may only be adopted by a unanimous vote. The members of the Executive Board are elected by the General Assembly, which meets every two years.
MEMBERS

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

- Arbeiter-Samariter-Jugend Deutschland
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland e.V.
- Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend
- Bund der Deutschen Landjugend im Deutschen Bauernverband e.V.
- Bund Deutscher Pfadfinderinnen e.V.
- Bundessportjugendwerk der Deutschen Turnerschaft e.V.
- Deutsche Bläserjugend in der Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Musikverbände e.V. (BDMV)
- Deutsche Chorjugend e.V.
- Deutsche Jugendfeuerwehr im Deutschen Feuerwehrverband e.V.
- Deutsche Schreiberjugend Bundesverband e.V.
- Deutsche Wanderjugend im Verband Deutscher Gebirgs- und Wandervereine e.V.
- Deutsches Jugendrotkreuz
- djo – Deutsche Jugend in Europa Bundesverband e.V.
- Jugend der Deutschen Lebens-Rettungs-Gesellschaft
- Jugend des Deutschen Alpenvereins
- Jugend im Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V.
- Jugend im dbb beamtenbund und tarifunion (dbb-jugend)
- Naturfreundejugend Deutschlands
- Naturheimejugend im Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V.
- Naturheimejugend im Naturheimebund Deutschland e.V.
- Ring deutscher Pfadfinderinnenverbände
- Solidaritätsjugend Deutschlands
- Sozialistische Jugend Deutschlands – Die Falken

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neue Demokratische Jugendverbände Windthorstr. 53 A, D-99096 Erfurt,
  Tel. +49 361 644-8754, Fax +49 361 644-8752
- Arbeitskreis zentraler Jugendverbände
- Bund der Alevitischen Jugendlichen in Deutschland
- Deutsche Esperanto-Jugend e.V.
- Jugendnetzwerk Lambda e.V.

LÄNDER YOUTH COUNCILS

- Bremer Jugendring/Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Bremer Jugendverbände e.V.
- Hessischer Jugendring e.V.
- Kinder- und Jugendring Sachsen e.V.
- Kinder- und Jugendring Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.
- Landesjugendring Schleswig-Holstein e.V.
- Landesjugendring Baden-Württemberg e.V.
- Landesjugendring Berlin e.V.
- Landesjugendring Brandenburg e.V.
- Landesjugendring Hamburg e.V.
- Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V.
- Landesjugendring Niedersachsen e.V.
- Landesjugendring Nordrhein-Westfalen e.V.
- Landesjugendring Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.
- Landesjugendring Saar e.V.
- Landesjugendring Thüringen e.V.
The Bavarian Youth Council (BJR) is an umbrella organisation for youth organisation and youth groups in Bavaria. It was founded in 1947 and has the legal form of a corporation under public law.

The primary objective of the BJR is to “promote the interests of all young people in Bavaria through youth work and youth policy”. This mainly encompasses supporting a fundamentally democratic view, fostering responsible, independent action and social behaviour by young people, and representing the interests of young people in democratic bodies. BJR fulfils a number of public roles, including financially supporting youth work, counselling and advising specialists working in the fields of community youth work and open work with children and adolescents, and supporting public recognition of independent bodies which carry out youth work. Since 1993, the Bavarian Child and Youth Services Act (Bayerisches Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz) assigns to BJR the responsibilities of a Länder youth services office within the field of youth work. Accordingly, BJR is responsible for advising the youth offices in the field of youth work. Focal points of BJR's work include further development of youth work, educational concepts, and the scientific study and formulation of policy issues related to youth matters. In addition to this, BJR establishes international contacts, accompanies and advises exchange programme measures and supports exchange projects by organisations inside and outside the public education system. BJR publishes a bi-monthly publication entitled “Jugendnachrichten” (Youth News), which provides information on specific subjects, activities and developments in the field of youth work.

BJR's central institution for advanced training in Bavaria is the Gauting Institute for Youth Work (Institut für Jugendarbeit Gauting), which was founded in 1967. The range of programmes on offer includes conferences on current topical issues in youth and educational work, special seminars in the fields of political education/social competence, management and self-competence, competence in educational fields, cultural education/multi-media, as well as seminars for particular professional groups in youth work, advanced vocational training and additional professional training in fields such as social and welfare institution management, meditation, conflict management, experiential education and cultural education. Address: Institut für Jugendarbeit, Germeringer Str. 30, D-82131 Gauting, Tel. +49 89 893233-0, Fax +49 89 893233-77, info@institutgauting.de, www.institutgauting.de.

MEMBERS
More than 29 Bavarian youth organisations, 36 supra-regional youth organisations and over 400 local youth groups are represented in the Bavarian Youth Council. Contact addresses are available at www.bjr.de.
The Youth Council of Bremen was founded in 1949, when it was known as the Bremen Land Youth Council (Landesjugendring Bremen). It is a voluntary association of youth associations and youth organisations working in the Land of Bremen and recognized providers of extracurricular youth education. It represents the interests of young people in society and – consequently – it is involved in areas such as family, schools, workplaces and leisure activities.

Youth work is represented by considering the specific interests of associations and organisations but without interfering with the autonomy of these associations and while respecting their diverse social, political, ideological and denominational principles.

MEMBERS
The contact details of associations affiliated to the Youth Council of Bremen/Regional Working Party of Youth Organisations in Bremen are available at www.bremerjugendring.de.
Hessischer Jugendring e. V.

Youth Council of Hesse

Schiersteiner Str. 31–33; D–65187 Wiesbaden
Tel.: +49 611 99083–17; Fax: +49 611 99083–60
E-Mail: info@hessischer-jugendring.de; Internet: www.hessischer-jugendring.de

The Youth Council of Hesse was founded in 1948. It is a working group for voluntary co-operation between youth associations working in the state of Hesse.

The youth associations co-operating in the Youth Council of Hesse offer a wide range of programmes and thus orientation and support for children and young people. They provide a framework, in which the ideas, wishes and competences of children and young people are given their own space. Children and young people are largely self-determined and autonomous in their activities within this space.

The youth associations in the Youth Council of Hesse organise more than 1 million children and young persons, and more than 70,000 young people show their commitment as volunteers in its structures. They are active advocates for the interests of children and young people on both the societal and political levels.

The Youth Council of Hesse especially addresses the social framework and the structures for children and youth work. In this context, its efforts are aimed at ensuring an environment for children and young people, which offers the space and time so that children and young persons can address their environment in self-determination and full responsibility and have an opportunity to participate in the design of this environment according to their interests and needs.

MEMBERS

The contact details of the associations affiliated to the Youth Council of Hesse are available at www.hessischer-jugendring.de.
Children and Youth Council of Saxony

Tzschimmerstr. 17; D-01309 Dresden
Tel.: +49 351 316790; Fax: +49 351 3167927
E-Mail: info@kjrs.de; Internet: www.kjrs.de

The Children and Youth Council of Saxony (KJRS) was founded in 1990 as the Youth Council of Saxony (Sächsischer Jugendring).

More than 40 associations affiliated to KJRS are committed to consider their mission and to co-operate in a spirit of freedom and tolerance, equal rights and democracy. They advocate the realisation of individual and social human rights, democratic decision-making processes, social and cultural education, and an environment, which is adapted to the needs of children and young people.

KJRS wants to be a working platform representing the common interests of its affiliated organisations vis-à-vis public, societal and political structures. It wants to promote and advance the development and further development of youth services in the Free State of Saxony.

MEMBERS
The contact details of youth associations in Saxony, city and county youth councils and expert organisations affiliated to the Children and Youth Council of Saxony are available at www.jugendinfo.net.
The Children and Youth Council of Saxony-Anhalt (KJR LSA) was founded in 1990. It is the working group of providers of non-public youth services working on the Länder level in view of jointly representing their interests vis-à-vis the Land parliament, the Land government and the general public. They consider their contribution for the improvement of living conditions for children and young people as an interdisciplinary task and want to exercise their lobbying functions vis-à-vis politicians, administrations and the public. KJR LSA designs and safeguards the general context or youth work, presents its positions, launches initiatives and is the information and service unit for youth work in Saxony-Anhalt.

Key elements of the content of its activities include support for the efforts of politicians and businesses, chambers and job centres to improve the search for trainee positions and to enhance the opportunities of young people on the labour market, to create an awareness for a predictable and appropriate funding of the work of children's and youth organisations and to contribute towards the realisation of children's rights. The development of a co-operation between non-public youth service providers and the schools as well as youth policy activities in view of influencing local policies are additional elements of its activities.

KJR LSA actively supports prevention programmes against right-wing extremism and promotes volunteer activities through comprehensive qualification programmes for the training of youth leaders.

MEMBERS
Contact addresses of youth organisations affiliated to the Children and Youth Council of Saxony-Anhalt are available at www.kjr-lsa.de.
Landesjugendring Baden-Württemberg e.V.

Regional Youth Council of Baden-Württemberg

Siemensstr. 11; D–70469 Stuttgart
Tel.: +49 711 16447–0; Fax: +49 711 16447–77
E-Mail: info@ljrbw.de; Internet: www.ljrbw.de

The Regional Youth Council of Baden-Württemberg was founded in 1952 as a union of various youth organisations forming a working group on the Land level. In addition to youth organisations, the regional working groups of the municipal and county youth councils, as well as the district youth council of Baden are members of the Regional Youth Council. The member organisations work together irrespective of world views and association-specific orientations and jointly represent their interests nationwide.

The goals and tasks of the Regional Youth Council are to represent the organisations and interests of children and young people to the Landtag, state government and the public, to express youth policy positions and hold events on current topics, to provide the necessary information and to combine contributions of the individual member organisations. In the field of education and qualification, the Regional Youth Council provides information and materials for educational work and holds specialist events on selected topics. It contributes to the necessary funds being provided for youth work in Baden-Württemberg and acts as a control centre for the distribution of the monies provided in the Land Youth Plan (Landesjugendplan). In the field of international and intercultural work, contacts are maintained and supported with partner countries and regions. The Regional Youth Council provides advice for international and interregional meetings and organises measures in the intercultural sector.

Furthermore, the Regional Youth Council provides a wide range of services to its affiliated organisations. This includes information on committees, events and publications as well as counselling and support in all fields of youth work.

MEMBERS

The Regional Youth Council of Baden-Württemberg is a union of youth organisations from Baden-Württemberg e.V and the working groups of the municipal and county youth councils. Contact addresses are available at www.ljrbw.de.
Landesjugendring Berlin e. V.

Berlin Regional Youth Council

Gottschedstr. 4; D-13357 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 2118264; Fax: +49 30 2116687
E-Mail: info@ljrberlin.de; Internet: www.ljrberlin.de

The Berlin Regional Youth Council was founded in 1949. It is a union of youth organisations and youth organisations in the state of Berlin and dedicated to the right of young people to define their own life and thus their right of co-determination in all societal, political and social matters. It campaigns for the consolidation of financial and legal conditions for youth and youth organisation work and makes statements on current political matters. The Berlin Regional Youth Council represents the interests of all children and young people in Berlin. It maintains close contacts to politicians, the administration and the specialist public.

There are currently 33 members in the Berlin Regional Youth Council who are all independent of political parties. The following quality standards characterise the work of the Berlin Regional Youth Council and its members: lasting children and youth work in the state of Berlin, co-determination and participation of young people in all societal, political and social sectors, self-defined and self-governed youth work in democratic structures, volunteer work, partiality and value orientation.

The Berlin Regional Youth Council and its affiliates are involved in a wide range of programmes and activities for leisure activities of children and young people. The focus of its work includes children and youth groups, children and youth trips, youth centres, youth clubs, youth cafés, training to become a youth leader, intercultural and international youth work, political activities, ecology/environmental protection, youth culture, sports, seminars/educational work and counselling.

MEMBERS
Contact addresses of the associations belonging to the Berlin Regional Youth Council are available at www.ljrberlin.de.
Landesjugendring Brandenburg e.V.

Regional Youth Council Brandenburg

Breite Str. 7 A; D-14467 Potsdam
Tel.: +49 331 62075–30; Fax: +49 331 62075–38
E-Mail: info@ljr-brandenburg.de; Internet: www.ljr-brandenburg.de

The Regional Youth Council Brandenburg (LJR Brandenburg) is the working group of youth organisations active in the Land of Brandenburg. It was founded in 1990 and is currently made up of 32 youth organisations and 10 municipal and county youth councils.

LJR Brandenburg work is focused on its representation work vis-à-vis politics, authorities and science as well as advocacy for the needs of young people in the public. By its participation in numerous state and societal committees and by incorporating the interests of young people in the decision-making process of societal institutions, LJR Brandenburg influences youth policy and the development of youth legislation in Brandenburg. The youth policy of the LJR Brandenburg and its affiliated youth organisations generally regards itself as a policy that is both for and by youth. The central objective is youth participation in decision-making processes.

The work of the LJR focuses on the promotion of voluntarism, quality development in extracurricular youth education, international youth meetings as well as the promotion of successful co-operations between schools and youth organisations. By its participation in various committees, its co-operation with the alliance “Tolerant Brandenburg”, as well as the appointment of the chairperson in the “Action Alliance against Violence, Right-wing Extremism and Xenophobia”, the Regional Youth Council actively campaigns against militarist, nationalist, xenophobic and antidemocratic tendencies in the region.

MEMBERS

Contact addresses of the associations affiliated to the Regional Youth Council Brandenburg are available at www.ljr-brandenburg.de.
Landesjugendring Hamburg e.V.

Hamburg Regional Youth Council

Güntherstr. 34; D-22087 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 31796-114; Fax: +49 40 31796-180
E-Mail: info@ljr-hh.de; Internet: www.ljr-hh.de

That Hamburg Regional Youth Council (LJR) is a union of youth organisations and working groups that are active on a state level and want to promote the self-defined, creative and joint actions of children and young people in Hamburg. The LJR supports the various voluntary involvements of young people to secure the future of a social and democratic society.

The Hamburg Regional Youth Council represents the interests of young people, its 16 member associations, 4 associated organisations and more than 150,000 young persons in associations, which are active in public, particularly to the Senate, the city parliament, the political parties, the district parliaments and authorities. The highest decision-making body is the general meeting that is held at least twice a year. The Board of Directors with its four members represents the diversity of the affiliated organisations.

It is the aim of the Regional Youth Council to influence the development of youth policy and youth work as well as the financial and legal conditions. Consequently, it makes statements and develops activities on youth, educational and socio-political matters. Regularly LJR activities include the “Alternative City Tours” (Alternative Stadtrundfahrten), which have been offered since 1978 to the locations of persecution and resistance during National Socialism (with approximately 80 tours to 18 main routes a year), as well as its courses for youth leaders.

The Regional Youth Council publishes the magazine “punktum”, which critically reports on the lives of Hamburg youth and the activities of youth organisations. It is a quarterly publication and reaches multipliers and young people in the organisations, as well as all relevant organisations in Hamburg. The website of the Regional Youth Council www.ljr-hh.de is the portal of organised youth work in Hamburg. It comprises current information on Hamburg youth organisations, youth politics, as well as activities of the Regional Youth Council. The service section includes detailed materials on organised youth work, legal and support issues as well as background information.

In the section on international youth work, the Hamburg Regional Youth Council maintains intensive contacts to the Shanghai Youth Federation (China) and to the Round Table in St Petersburg (Russia). Every year, youth meetings are held for multipliers (alternating between ‘in’- and ‘out’-activities).

MEMBERS

Contact addresses of the organisations affiliated to the Hamburg Regional Youth Council are available at www.ljr-hh.de.
Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e. V.

Regional Youth Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Goethestr. 73; D-19053 Schwerin
Tel.: +49 385 76076-0; Fax: +49 385 76076-20
E-Mail: ljr@inmv.de; Internet: www.jugend.inmv.de

The Regional Youth Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (LJR-MV) was founded in 1990 after German Unification. Meanwhile, 22 nationally active youth organisations belong to LJR-MV.

LJR-MV sees its main task as participating in the improvement of living conditions of children and young people and primarily in campaigning for their interests vis-à-vis politics, administration and the public.

Its specific tasks are shaping, co-ordinating and enhancing the framework conditions for youth work, organising training, further training and specialist conferences, public relations and the producing publications for youth work. In this context, it is a matter of promoting the voluntary nature of youth work and the free development of young people, whilst motivating them to participate in youth organisations.

Furthermore, campaigns and projects are carried out, leisure activities and holiday camps are offered, educational events are held and international meetings are organised to give children and young people the opportunity to develop and experience different realities.

MEMBERS

Contact addresses of the organisations affiliated to the Regional Youth Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania are available at www.jugend.inmv.de.
The Regional Youth Council of Lower Saxony campaigns for children being listened to, their interests being taken into account and their living conditions being improved. For this purpose, the Regional Youth Council is active in constant dialogues with politics, the public and administration. It wants to contribute to ensuring, qualifying and expanding the structures for a variety of youth work.

The Regional Youth Council is the working group of 19 active member and youth organisations in Lower Saxony. These represent more than 80 independent youth organisations that reach around 70 percent of all children and young people in Lower Saxony, and have approximately 500,000 members. Through the democratic structure of the organisations and their networking in the Regional Youth Council, the latter aims to ensure that the wishes and demands of young people are represented on the Land level.

As a hub of youth work in Lower Saxony, the Regional Youth Council wants to set the course: it states its views on current topics, creates spaces for youth work, initiates model projects, organises specialist days and events, produces working aids and publications and regards itself as an information and service centre for youth work in Lower Saxony. This also includes the support and counselling of more than 200 county, municipal, local and community youth councils.

With the Lower Saxony youth server (www.jugendserver-niedersachsen.de), the Regional Youth Council provides a central information platform for youth work in Lower Saxony. It is here that young people find numerous possibilities for participation and communication.

The youth-oriented participation is also the focus of the campaign neXTvote (www.nextvote.de). Young People are not only able to state their opinions on the respective elections on the Internet platform www.neXTvote.de, but they can also take part in elections and get in touch with politicians.

Further aspects of the work are its support of young people with special support needs (NextNetz – www.nextnetz.de), educational participation in the memorial of Bergen-Belsen (Working Group for Youth Work in Bergen-Belsen) and its focus on the training of youth leaders.

The Regional Youth Council identifies with comprehensive education and strives to ideally enable this in the youth organisations’ work. The topics of extracurricular education are expressed in the future programme neXTgeneration. It focuses on questions, challenges and wishes for the youth work of tomorrow.

The Internet presence of the Regional Youth Council is supplemented in the print sector by the communication and information newsletter “korrespondenz”, which has a circulation of 7,500 copies.

MEMBERS
Contact addresses of the affiliated organisations of the Regional Youth Council of Lower Saxony are available at www.ljr.de.
Landesjugendring Nordrhein-Westfalen e. V.

Regional Youth Council of Northrhine-Westphalia

Martinstr. 2A; D-41472 Neuss
Tel.: +49 2131 4695-0; Fax: +49 2131 4695-19
E-Mail: info@ljr-nrw.de; Internet: www.ljr-nrw.de

The Regional Youth Council of Northrhine-Westphalia (LJR NRW), which was founded in 1948, is a union of meanwhile 22 youth organisations on a state level. LJR NRW regards its central task as co-defining and securing the framework conditions of youth organisation work as well as supporting the work of the German Youth Council and the municipal and county youth councils. Representatives with voting rights are involved in advisory committees of various institutions, in Land youth services committees or committees of radio stations and youth welfare.

It is the task of LJR NRW to represent the joint interests of the member and affiliated organisations as well as young people in public, in particular to parliament and the government. LJR NRW makes statements on relevant child and youth matters as well as educational and sociopolitical questions, promotes the youth organisation work and youth service planning. Furthermore, it holds regular further training courses and qualification programmes for full-time education professionals and it also organises conferences. Through the publication of information services, specialist publications and statements, information is regularly provided to its affiliates and the specialist public.

MEMBERS
Contact addresses of the affiliates of the Regional Youth Council of Northrhine-Westphalia are available at www.ljr-nrw.de.
Landesjugendring Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.

Regional Youth Council of Rhineland-Palatinate

Raimundistr. 2; D–55118 Mainz
Tel.: +49 6131 960200; Fax: +49 6131 611226
E-Mail: info@ljr-rlp.de; Internet: www.ljr-rlp.de

The Regional Youth Council of Rhineland-Palatinate was founded in 1948 and is a voluntary association of youth organisations aiming at serving youth in this association and at promoting their mutual interests.

The Regional Youth Council prepares position papers on youth legislation issues and youth policy issues. Its tasks include the promotion of democratisation in all areas of society and the fight against antidemocratic and especially militarist, nationalists, racist, sexist and totalitarian tendencies in society. It is against disadvantages for girls and young women on all levels of society, promotes environmental awareness among young people and fights against various forms of discrimination against young people with physical, mental or psychological disabilities on all levels of society. It promotes mutual understanding and the willingness to co-operate among young people and represents the interests of its affiliates vis-à-vis the general public.

MEMBERS

Contact addresses of youth organisations affiliated to the Regional Youth Council of Rhineland-Palatinate are available at www.ljr-rlp.de.
Regional Youth Council of the Saarland

Eifelstr. 35; D-66113 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49 681 63331; Fax: +49 681 63344
E-Mail: info@landesjugendring-saar.de; Internet: www.landesjugendring-saar.de

The Regional Youth Council of the Saarland is the working group of 21 child and youth organisations in the Saarland. It is a recognised provider of youth services in the Saarland and a non-profit association. Its affiliated organisations are denominational, trade unions, social, ecological, leisure- or musically-/culturally-oriented.

It is the task of the Regional Youth Council to represent the joint interests of children and youth organisations and their members in politics and society and to publicise them. This concerns matters of child and youth work, as well as – across all fields of life – the interests of children and young people.

The Regional Youth Council of the Saarland is also the provider of the Saar youth server (www.jugendserver-saar.de), the Internet portal for young people and youth services in the Saarland. Another programme is the Culture Council of Youth (Kulturring der Jugend), which offers inexpensive theatre subscriptions to young people in the Saarland.

MEMBERS
Contact addresses of affiliates of the Regional Youth Council of the Saarland are available at www.landesjugendring-saar.de.
The Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein (LJR S.-H.) was founded in 1949. It represents the interests of 24 member organisations and 15 county youth councils, which currently count more than 500,000 children and young people as their members.

LJR S.-H. has set itself the goal to promote the mutual understanding, the exchange of experiences and the willingness for co-operation among youth organisations, to further develop extracurricular youth work in terms of content and methods, to secure and improve the living conditions of young persons and future generations with the participation of young people. It wants to promote youths' conscious and responsible support of free, social and constitutional state democracy.

LJR S.-H. makes statements on matters of youth policy and youth rights and develops its own ideas. A further focus is the representation of interests and rights of youth organisations to the public, the Landtag, the Land government and the authorities. Furthermore, campaigns and events are proposed and organised.

For the information of its members, LJR S.-H. publishes statements, specialist articles, resolutions and, as part of its public relations, information. For its full-time and voluntary members, it offers seminars, conferences and projects for information, discussion and continuing education. In 2007, the Regional Youth Council published a newly composed “Working Aid for the Basic Training of Voluntary Youth Work Employees”.

In 1990, LJR S.-H. developed a new focal field – the co-operation with the youth organisations in the neighbouring Baltic Sea states – and founded the Baltic Youth Office (www.ostseejugendbuero.de). Once a year, it organises the Baltic Youth Conference in co-operation with a youth organisation. Since 1999, the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs (Ostseesekretariat für Jugendangelegenheiten, www.balticsea-youth.org) has also been a member of LJR S.-H.

In 1998, LJR S.-H. founded the Schleswig-Holstein Foundation for Youth Work (Stiftung Jugendarbeit Schleswig-Holstein, www.stiftung-jugendarbeit.de) together with the Sparkasse savings banks. The aim of the Foundation is to provide funding for the promotion of private youth work in youth councils, associations and initiatives.

In 2004, the Baltic Youth Foundation (Ostsee-Jugendstiftung, www.ostsee-jugendstiftung.de) was founded to improve the promotion of international youth work.

MEMBERS
Contact addresses of the affiliates of the Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein are available at www.ljrsh.de.
Landesjugendring Thüringen e. V.

Regional Youth Council of Thuringia

Johannesstr. 19; D-99084 Erfurt
Tel.: +49 361 57678-0; Fax: +49 361 57678-15
E-Mail: post@ljrt-online.de; Internet: www.ljrt-online.de

The Regional Youth Council of Thuringia (LJRT) is a working group of 23 youth organisations working on the Land level, with approximately 391,170 members up to the age of 27. LJRT has made it its task to campaign for the political interests of children and young people. LJRT aims to represent Thuringia’s youth organisations on a regional level in the youth policy committees. This includes presenting and representing the objectives of its affiliated organisations, creating publicity and transparency for the goals and value-oriented work with children and young people as well as the support of formulating political objectives of youths. The local unions of youth organisations are the municipal and county youth councils with which LJRT maintains intensive co-operations, both informally and for specific projects.

LJRT focuses on the promotion and support of the long-term group-related work in youth organisations, meaningful leisure activities for children and young people as well as initiatives and projects within and outside of the member associations. The state youth server “Yougend.com” provides relevant and interesting information for children and young people, whilst the youth programme “Time leaps” (Zeitensprünge) focuses on historical and practical history research of and for young people on the local level and its applicability in school and extracurricular education. The campaign “We move values” (Wir bewegen Werte) aims to promote the political formation of objectives that enables children and young people to hold numerous dialogues with political decision-makers. And in the youth competition “Youth commitment in Thuringia”, young people in Thuringia – together with the mayors – can implement their idea to improve the offers for children and young people in the region.

To support and qualify the work of youth group leaders, LJRT has published the “JULEICA Hand-out” handbook for youth leaders.

LJRT is a recognised provider of the Voluntary Social Year in Thuringia – Thuringia Year.

MEMBERS

The Regional Youth Council of Thuringia represents the interests of 23 organisations. Contact addresses are available at www.landesjugendring-thueringen.de.
Ring Politischer Jugend  
*Council of Political Youth Organisations*

Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Jungsozialistinnen und Jungsozialisten in der SPD  
*Party of Young Socialists in the Social Democratic Party of Germany*

GRÜNE JUGEND Bundesverband  
*Young Greens*

JungdemokratInnen – Junge Linke – radikaldemokratischer und parteiunabhängiger Jugendverband e. V.  
*Young Democrats – Young Left*

Junge Liberale e. V.  
*Young Liberals*

Junge Union Deutschlands  
*Young Christian Democrats of Germany*
In order to carry out joint active measures to prevent an antidemocratic influence on the young generation and to make other political abuse of German youth impossible, the political youth organisations of the democratic parties represented in the German Bundestag founded the Council of Political Youth Organisations in 1950. The founding members were the Young Union of Germany (CDU/CSU), the Young Socialists in the SPD and the German Young Democrats (JD-JL).

In 1983, a further youth organisation – the Young Liberals (FDP) – joined the RPJ. Parallel to this, the German Young Democrats had broken away from the FDP and have since described themselves as a non-partisan youth organisation. Finally, the Green-Alternative youth coalition (today: GREEN Youth organisation/GRÜNE JUGEND Bundesverband) joined the RPJ.

The RPJ has neither the character nor the tasks of an independent organisation. It represents the needs of the party political youth organisations. It aims to carry out joint active measures to prevent an antidemocratic influence being exerted on the young generation and to make other political abuse of German youth impossible. Furthermore, the youth organisations of the democratic political parties seek to strengthen their endeavours to incorporate young people in active and responsible political participation.

In spite of political differences of opinion, this principle is the sole political basis of the work of the RPJ, which is coordinated by the Federal Committee. This committee is made up of one representative from each of the four organisations. The RPJ has no management of its own.

The office of the association is responsible for carrying out the necessary technical and business tasks, and this is also the chair of the RPJ. The chairmanship and management are held alternately for the duration of one year by the five political youth organisations.

Local tasks are carried out by the state, district and town committees of the RPJ.

Together with the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring), the RPJ forms the German National Committee for International Youth Work (Deutsches Nationalkomitee für internationale Jugendarbeit).

MEMBERS

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Jungsozialistinnen und Jungsozialisten in der SPD
- GRÜNE JUGEND Bundesverband
- JungdemokratInnen – Junge Linke – radikaldemokratischer und parteiunabhängiger Jugendverband e.V.
- Junge Liberale e.V.
- Junge Union Deutschlands
Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Jungsozialistinnen und Jungsozialisten in der SPD

Party of Young Socialists in the Social Democratic Party of Germany

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The Party of Young Socialists in the Social Democratic Party of Germany (Jusos) was founded in 1946. The Juso party is the youth organisation of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

All individuals interested in political change may join in the Juso activities with the Juso party considering politics as a mission for more democracy. It advocates the creation of areas, which offer each individual an opportunity to join the political process. For the Juso party, democracy means opportunities of being involved in decision-making at the workplace, in schools, universities, in leisure and cultural activities, i.e. in all areas of life.

Juso’s activities focus on ecological restructuring, equal opportunities for women, the fight against youth unemployment, the abolition of all forms of discrimination, the establishment of suitable culture and leisure facilities for young people, and on ensuring the participation of young people in our political, cultural and social life.

Approx. 80,000 SPD party members below the age of 35 are members of the Party of Young Socialists in the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
The list of the Juso regional associations is available at www.jusos.de.
GRÜNE JUGEND Bundesverband

Young Greens

Hessische Str. 10; D-10115 Berlin
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E-Mail: buero@gruene-jugend.de; Internet: www.gruene-jugend.de

GRÜNE JUGEND (Young Greens) is the youth organisation of the German party Bündnis90/Die Grünen (the Greens). The Federal association was set up in 1994 following the development of local and district groups and associations, which later combined to form Länder associations. GRÜNE JUGEND has been an official organisation of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen since 2001. The Federal Executive Board of GRÜNE JUGEND represents the association. Resolutions are adopted at the half-yearly meetings of the membership.

Special forums discuss various aspects of different topics, e.g. ecology, Europe, international affairs, education and equal rights. Federal Congresses take place twice a year to discuss some of the aspects of the above-mentioned issues. Moreover, GRÜNE JUGEND organises numerous study sessions and working conferences, which are also open to non-members.

GRÜNE JUGEND aims at a political culture that lives up to the needs and views of young people, allows for new ideas and is fun. The newsletter SPUNK, published by an independent editorial department, provides room for the publication of discussions, documentaries and comments.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

Please refer to www.gruene-jugend.de for further information about the 16 largely autonomous Länder associations.
The Young Democrats – Young Left (JD/JL) are a nationwide youth association for radical democrats in Germany and independent of any political party. Established in 1919 as a liberal and radically democratic movement, the Young Democrats defended democracy and protested against the build-up of arms during the Weimar Republic. After World War II, the “German Young Democrats’ Youth Organisation” (Jugendverband Deutsche Jungdemokraten, DJD) was founded as the youth organisation of the liberal FDP party and became its successor in 1947. Due to a swing to the political left in the 1960s, relations between DJD and FDP became increasingly tense. When the social-liberal coalition ended, DJD and FDP split. Since this separation in 1982, DJD has been working as a non-partisan youth organisation. In 1992, in the political aftermath of the re-unification of East and West Germany, the GDR organisation “Young Left” (Junge Linke), a political youth movement and Marxist youth organisation, and DJD merged into the “Young Democrats – Young Left” (JD/JL).

Their objective is the political education of young people in order to make them responsible personalities, thus creating the conditions for expanding freedom and realising self-determination in all spheres of society. They oppose any kind of totalitarian or dictatorial movement and advocate the constitutional democratic state and a social order which is borne by a mindset that is based on solidarity.

JD/JL has adopted the principles of radical democracy – i.e. the realisation of freedom, equality, solidarity, and human dignity for all mankind.

The Young Democrats – Young Left are a politically and organisationally independent youth organisation that has local and regional branches, Länder associations and a national association. It has about 9,500 members between 14 and 35 years of age. JD/JL is a founding member of the European Network of Democratic Young Left (ENDYL) and the Council of Political Youth Organisations (Ring Politischer Jugend).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
A list of the Länder associations is available at www.jdjl.org/verband/verband.html under the menu item "Adressen".
Junge Liberale e. V.

Young Liberals

Ackerstr. 3 B; D-10115 Berlin
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E-Mail: info@julis.de; Internet: www.julis.de

The Young Liberals (JuLis) were established in 1980 as the youth organisation of the Free Democratic Party (FDP). The objective of this political youth organisation is to realise its political ideas together with the FDP party.

JuLis consider liberal basic values as the foundation of all policies. They give priority to the individual instead of groups, associations and the state. They actively pursue the protection and further development of individual liberties in society, industry and the state. Based on their humanist traditions, JuLis show social commitment for weak social groups. Above all, all their policies are based on the tolerance of individuals holding different views. For Young Liberals, there are no absolute truths.

For JuLis, the approach to solving political problems is of fundamental significance. They advocate rational thinking and fight against emotional politics and prejudices. JuLis try to realise their basic values in the concrete areas of politics. Since the social and state theory of the Young Liberals is liberalism, a free and social democracy based on the rule of law is their only acceptable option. They consider a representative representation of interests and a pluralist structure of the state as a major element of this democracy. The pillars of liberal policy are environmental and economic policy as well as social policy. On each of these policies, JuLis have produced a specific policy statement.

Approx. 9,800 young people between 14 and 35 years are active in 16 Länder associations. The supreme decision-making body is the Federal Congress, the enlarged Federal Executive and the Federal Executive.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

A list of Länder associations is available at www.julis.de.
Junge Union Deutschlands

Young Christian Democrats of Germany

Inselstr. 18; D-10179 Berlin
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E-Mail: ju@junge-union.de; Internet: www.junge-union.de

JU, Young Christian Democrats of Germany, was established in Königstein/Taunus in 1947. The young generation express themselves through JU within the political parties of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Christian Social Union (CSU). JU is an independent organisation of young people sharing the same Christian, democratic and social awareness.

JU is open to all young people in Germany who are invited to provide inputs in shaping our politics. The organisation is not limited to representing the interests of young people in general and in the political arena in particular, but develops objectives on all matters of political concern. The educational services of JU are designed to enable young people to develop analytical skills and political judgment as a basis for their competent political action. JU promotes the broad participation of young people on all political levels and strives for political decisions, which are sustainable and fair to all generations. The Federal Congress (Deutschlandtag), which meets at least once a year (www.deutschlandtag.de), is JU’s supreme decision-making body.

JU’s positions are based on the respect for men and women as unique, distinctive and responsible beings enjoying inviolable dignity. With its policies JU seeks: a dignified life for everybody; the realisation, maintenance and development of peace, liberty and social justice; a future worth living for humankind and nature.

There are more topics which have gained in importance over the last few years, i.e. demographic change, and JU has initiated a broad debate in society against this backdrop and in view of ensuring that Germany’s social systems are future-proof. It also addresses extremism as a trend, which JU seeks to counteract by supporting the JU Länder associations in the east of Germany with the “With it!” programme (www.aktion-dabei.de).

JU has around 130,000 members between 14 and 35 years of age. The JU newsletter “Decision” (Die ENTSCHEIDUNG; www.entscheidung.de), is published six times a year.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

www.junge-union.de contains a list of 18 Länder associations.
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National Council of YMCAs in Germany

Deutsche Bläserjugend in der Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Musikverbände e. V. (BDMV)  
German Young Wind Players

Deutsche Chorjugend e. V.  
German Youth Choir Association

Deutsche Esperanto-Jugend e. V.  
German Esperanto Youth

Deutsche Jugend aus Russland e. V.  
German Youth from Russia

Deutsche Jugendfeuerwehr im Deutschen Feuerwehrverband e. V.  
German Junior Fire Brigades

Deutsche Marine-Jugend e. V.  
German Marine Youth

Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg  
German Boy Scouts of Saint George

Deutsche Philatelisten-Jugend e. V. – Bundesverband der jungen Briefmarkenfreunde  
German Young Philatelists’ Association

Deutsche Schreberjugend Bundesverband e. V.  
German Schreber Youth

Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund (DOSB) e. V.  
German Sports Youth in the German Olympic Sports Federation

Deutsche Trachtenjugend im Deutschen Trachtenverband e. V.  
German Folk Costumes and Dance Youth in the German Association for Folk Costumes and Dances

Deutsche Waldjugend – Bundesverband e. V.  
German Young Foresters – Federal Association of the Society for the Protection of German Forests

Deutsche Wanderjugend im Verband Deutscher Gebirgs- und Wandervereine e. V.  
German Young Ramblers Association

Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung  
German Youth Association for the Study and Conservation of Nature

Deutscher Jugendbund Kyffhäuser e. V.  
German Young Kyffhäuser Federation

Deutscher Jugendverband “Entschieden für Christus” (EC) e. V.  
German Youth Federation for Christian Endeavour

Deutscher Pfadfinderverband e. V.  
German Scouting Association
Deutsches Jugendrotkreuz
*German Red Cross Youth*

DGB-Jugend
*Trade Union Youth in the Federation of German Trade Unions*

DJK-Sportjugend im DJK-Sportverband e. V.
*Young Catholics’ Sports Association*

djo – Deutsche Jugend in Europa Bundesverband e. V.
*djo – German Youth in Europe*

Europäische Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg e. V.
*European Scouts of St George*

Europäisches Jugendparlament in Deutschland e. V.
*European Youth Parliament in Germany*

Evangelische Brüder-Unität – Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine
*Unity of the Brethren – Bohemian/Herrnhut Brethren*

fkk-jugend e. V.
*Association of Young Naturists*

Frischluft e. V.
*Fresh Air Organisation*

Gemeindejugendwerk des Bundes Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden in
Deutschland K. d. ö. R.
*German Baptist Youth Department of the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany*

integ-Jugend im Sozialverband Deutschland e. V.
*integ-Youth in the Social Association of Germany*

Johanniter-Jugend in der Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e. V.
*St John Young Ambulance*

Jugend der Deutschen Lebens-Rettungs-Gesellschaft
*Youth of the German Life Saving Society*

Jugend des Deutschen Alpenvereins
*Youth of the German Alpine Association*

Jugend im Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e. V.
*Young Friends of the Earth*

Jugend im dbb beamtenbund und tarifunion (dbb-jugend)
*Youth Organisation of the German Federation of Civil Servants*

Jugendnetzwerk Lambda e. V.
*Youth Network “Lambda” – Young Lesbians and Gays*

Jugendverbände der Gemeinschaft Christlichen Lebens
*Youth Organisations of the Christian Life Community*
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Jugendwerk der Evangelisch-methodistischen Kirche
United Methodist Church Youth Department

Junge Europäische Föderalisten Deutschland e. V.
Young European Federalists Germany

Juvenile – Jugendabteilung der Guttempler in Deutschland
Juvenile – Youth Organisation of the Good Templars in Germany

Katholische Junge Gemeinde
Catholic Young Congregation

Katholische Landjugendbewegung Deutschlands e. V.
Catholic Rural Youth Movement of Germany

Katholische Studierende Jugend
Young Catholic Students

Kolpingjugend im Kolpingwerk Deutschland
Kolping Youth Germany

Linksjugend [´solid]
Socialist Youth [´solid]

Malteser Jugend im Malteser-Hilfsdienst e. V.
Maltese Youth

MBK – Evangelisches Jugend- und Missionswerk e. V.
Young People's Missionary and Biblical Association

Missionswerk Jugend für Christus Deutschland e. V.
Youth for Christ Germany

Muslimische Jugend Deutschland
Muslim Youth Germany

Naturfreundejugend Deutschlands
German Young Nature Friends

Naturschutzzjugend im Naturschutzbund Deutschland e. V.
Youth Organisation for the Protection of Nature

Paneuropa-Jugend Deutschland e. V.
Pan-European Youth Movement of Germany

Pfadfinderinnenschaft Sankt Georg
Girl Guide's Association of St George

Ring Deutscher Pfadfinderinnenverbände
Union of German Girl Guides Associations

Ring deutscher Pfadfinderverbände
Union of German Boy Scouts Associations

Ring Missionarischer Jugendbewegungen e. V.
Union of Missionary Youth Movements

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Solidaritätsjugend Deutschlands
Solidarity Youth of Germany

Sorbischer Jugendverein Pawk e. V.
Sorbian Youth Association

Sozialistische Jugend Deutschlands – Die Falken
Socialist Youth of Germany – The Falcons

THW-Jugend e. V.
Youth of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief

Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder
Christian Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association

Zionistische Jugend in Deutschland e. V.
Zionist Youth in Germany
Aktion West-Ost im BDKJ – Arbeitsgemeinschaft für europäische Friedensfragen

West-East Movement within the Federation of German Catholic Youth – Committee for Questions of Peace in Europe

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The West-East Movement within the Federation of German Catholic Youth was founded in 1951, in the aftermath of war and displacement, as a Catholic youth organisation for expellees (Heimatvertriebene). Within the Federation of German Catholic Youth (Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend), it is the working group for European peace issues, and the umbrella organisation for four Catholic youth associations. The overall development of recent years has led to a shift in the emphasis of the West-East Movement’s work.

International youth work with young people from Germany, Central and Eastern Europe, the facilitation and support for such work in other groups, as well as political, social and religious education with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe, are at the centre of the Movement’s work. It promotes East-West dialogue at national and international levels through international meetings between adolescents and young adults from countries in Western, Central and Eastern Europe, through study visits to countries in Central and Eastern Europe, through political, social and religious educational work, and through advanced training for the facilitators of youth work. Moreover, the West-East Movement issues publications for meetings and intercultural learning, and owns a collection of didactic material for international meetings.

MEMBERS

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Gemeinschaft Junges Ermland
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www.junges-ermland.de

Junge Grafschaft – Katholische Jugend der Grafschaft Glatz
Ermlandweg 22, D–48149 Münster,
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grossdechant@junge-grafschaft.de,
www.junge-grafschaft.de

Junge Aktion der Ackermanngemeinde
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www.junge-aktion.de
Arbeiter-Samariter-Jugend Deutschland

Young Samaritan Association

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The Young Samaritan Association (ASJ) is the autonomous children and youth organisation of The Samaritan Association (Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund). It is characterised by a democratic structure, has no denominational or political affiliations and is oriented towards the needs and interests of young people. ASJ’s primary mission is to foster tolerance, solidarity, self-assurance and social commitment among children and young people.

Through meaningful and modern leisure-time activities, ASJ wants to overcome prejudices; it supports the development of all individuals and contributes to the democratic life of children and young people. In ASJ, children and young persons develop their own leisure-time activities in line with their wishes and ideas. Joint activities are offered such as group events, holiday trips, cultural and sports events, seminars and outings. The local and regional organisations of The Samaritan Association organize groups for children and young people between 6 and 27 with a multi-faceted programme of common activities. In addition to regular major events such as the federal youth competition and children’s days, ASJ is also involved in international activities. ASJ has approx. 66,000 members.

The Young Samaritan Association is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

REGIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Contact details of the management of the regional youth organisations existing in all 16 federal states are available at www.asj-bj.de.
Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland e. V.

Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany

Otto-Brenner-Str. 9; D-30159 Hannover
Tel.: +49 511 1215–0; Fax: +49 511 1215–299
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The Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (aej) has been the National Association of Protestant Youth in Germany since 1949. As an umbrella organisation, aej represents the interests of Protestant youth on the federal level vis-à-vis Federal Ministries, associations and churches, professional organisations and international partners. Its 36 current affiliates are national Protestant youth organisations and youth offices, youth offices of Free Evangelical churches and youth work agencies in the member churches of the Protestant Church in Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, EKD). Furthermore, 11 partner organisations with nationwide activities co-operate as associate members. aej represents the interests of approximately 1.2 million young people.

aej addresses basic conceptual issues of Protestant child and youth work, drafts positions on child and youth policy and is active in associations of the churches. It is active in national and international child and youth work, development policy and development-related education, ecumenical work and child and youth work in schools. aej undertakes lobbying activities to maintain a sound financial and political backing for child and youth work, and also addresses issues of training and further education.

aej strives to create a solid basis for Protestant child and youth work, both inside the church and in the public domain; it would like to create room for manoeuvre and to shape child and youth work in a forward-looking manner. At present, important issues are children’s rights, intercultural openness – migration, European funding policies, promoting voluntarism, global learning and the conceptual debate of subject-oriented child and youth work.

aej acts as a central grants office for the funding given to Protestant child and youth work under the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation. In the context of international and ecumenical youth encounters, aej maintains contacts in France, Central and Eastern Europe, Israel and Palestine. It is also represented in the Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe (EYCE). aej informs its members and interested individuals through magazines, series of publications, a press and information service and on the aej website and the Protestant youth portal www.youngspirix.de.

The Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (► Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

MEMBERS

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND YOUTH OFFICES

► Arbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Schülerinnen- und Schülerarbeit (AES)
  Christliche PfadfinderInnen- und PfadfinderInnenschaft Deutschlands e.V.
  Bundeshof Birkenfelde, Mitteldorf 114, D-37318 Birkenfelde, Tel. +49 36083 42225.
  info@christliche-pfadfinderinschaft.de, www.christliche-pfadfinderinschaft.de

► CVJM-Gesamtverband in Deutschland e.V.
► Deutscher Jugendverband “Entschieden für Christus” e.V.
► Johanniter-Jugend in der Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.
► MBK – Evangelisches Jugend- und Missionswerk e.V.
► Ring Missionarischer Jugendbewegungen e.V.
► Verband Christlicher PfadfinderInnen und Pfadfinder
YOUTH AGENCIES OF FREE PROTESTANT CHURCHES

Bund Freier evangelischer Gemeinden in Deutschland
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jugend@bund.feg.de, www.feg.de

Evangelische Brüder-Unität – Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine

Gemeindejugendwerk des Bundes Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden in Deutschland K.d.R.

Jugendwerk der Selbständigen Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche – Hauptjugendpfarramt
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jugendwerk@selk.de, www.selk-jugend.de

PROTESTANT YOUTH IN THE REGIONAL CHURCHES

Evangelische Jugend in der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Landeskirche Anhalts – Amt für Jugendarbeit
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www.evangelischejugend-anhalts.de

Evangelische Jugend in der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Landeskirche in Baden – Amt für Evangelische Kinder- und Jugendarbeit
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zentrale.afj@ekiba.de, www.evjugend.de

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jugend@reformiert.de, www.jugend.de

Evangelische Jugend Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz – Amt für Kirchliche Dienste in der EKBO,
Fachgebiet Arbeit mit Kindern und Jugendlichen
Goethestr. 26–30, D–10625 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 3191–0, Fax +49 30 3191–100,
amt@ebj.de, www.ebj.de

Evangelische Jugend in der evangelisch-lutherischen Landeskirche in Braunschweig – Amt für Jugendarbeit
Evangelisch-reformierten Landeskirche in Braunschweig
Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Str. 1, D–38300 Wolfenbüttel,
Tel. +49 5331 802–565, Fax +49 5331 802–715,
ajab@kb-bs.de, www.ajab.de

Evangelische Jugend Bremen – Landesjugendpfarramt der Bremer Evangelischen Kirche
Hollerallee 75, D–28209 Bremen,
Tel. +49 421 34615–50, Fax +49 421 34615–52,
jugendpfarramt.forum@kirche-bremen.de,
www.ejhb.de

Evangelische Jugend in der Evangelisch-lutherischen Landeskirche Hannovers – Landesjugendpfarramt
Arbeitsbereich A im Haus kirchlicher Dienste
Achimstr. 3, D–30169 Hannover,
Tel. +49 511 1241–428, Fax +49 511 1241–978,
landesjugendpfarramt@kirchliche-dienste.de,
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Zentrum Bildung der Evangelischen Kirche in Hessen und Nassau – Fachbereich Kinder- und Jugendarbeit
Erbacher Str. 17, D–64287 Darmstadt,
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www.ev-jugend.de

Jugendkammer in der Evangelischen Kirche von Kurhessen-Waldeck – Referat Schule und Unterricht / Kinder und Jugendarbeit
Wilhelmshöher Allee 330, D–34131 Kassel,
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jugend.lka@ekkw.de,
www.ekkw.de/afkd/jugend

Jugendkammer der Lippischen Landeskirche – Lippische Landeskirche
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www.lippische-landeskirche.de

Evangelische Jugend der Landeskirche Mecklenburgs – Amt für die Arbeit mit Kindern und Jugendlichen der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Landeskirche Mecklenburgs
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Evangelische Jugend der Pfalz – Landesjugendpfarramt der Evangelischen Kirche der Pfalz
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Evangelische Jugend Pommern – Amt für die Arbeit mit Kindern und Jugendlichen
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info-ejp@pek.de, www.e-j-p.com

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kugler-bohn@jugend.ekir.de,
www.ekir.de/jugend
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Evangelische Jugend der Kirchenprovinz Sachsen – Kinder- und Jugendpfarramt der Evangelischen Kirchen in Mitteldeutschland (EKMD) – Geschäftsstelle Magdeburg
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Evangelische Jugend in der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Landeskirche Sachsens – Landesjugendpfarramt der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Landeskirche Sachsens
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Iselohrer Str. 25, D–58239 Schwerte,
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info@aej-haus-villigst.de,
www.aej-haus-villigst.de

Arbeitssgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Württemberg – Landesjugendpfarramt der Evangelischen Landeskirche in Württemberg
Gerokstr. 19, D–70184 Stuttgart,
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landesjugendpfarramt@elk-wue.de,
www.lajupf.de

ASSOCIATED PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Jugend im ländlichen Raum e.V.
► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelischer Stadtjugendarbeit e.V.
c/o Protestantisches Stadtjugendpfarramt Kaiserslautern, Benzingorning 57,
D–67657 Kaiserslautern,
Tel. +49 631 3605540, Fax +49 631 3605541,
info@stadtjugendpfarramt.de

► Bundesverband Kulturarbeit in der evangelischen Jugend e.V.
► Burckhardt-Haus – Evangelisches Institut für Jugend-, Kultur- und Sozialarbeit e.V.

CVJM-Kolleg, Aus- und Fortbildungs institut für christliche Jugendarbeit und private Fachschule für Sozialpädagogik
Hugo-Preuß-Str. 40, D–34131 Kassel,
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adm@offene-jugendarbeit.de, www.ag-klub.de

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Dieperzbergweg 13–17, D–57610 Altenkirchen/Westerwald,
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Fort- und Weiterbildungsstätte des MBK
Hermann-Löns-Str. 25, D–31205 Bad Salzuflen,
Tel. +49 5222 1805–0, Fax +49 5222 1805–27,
info@mbk-web.de, www.mbk-web.de

► ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit e.V.
Jugendseminar, Fort- und Weiterbildungsstätte des Gemeindejugendwerkes
Julius-Köbner-Str. 4, D–14641 Wustermark,
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jugendseminar@baptisten.org

Studienzentrum für evangelische Jugendarbeit in Josefstal e.V.
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Tel. +49 8026 9756–0, Fax +49 8026 9756–50,
studienzentrum@josefstal.de, www.josefstal.de
Arbeitsgemeinschaft deutscher Junggärtner e. V.

Association of Young German Horticulturists

Gießener Str. 47; D-35305 Grünberg
Tel.: +49 6401 9101–79; Fax: +49 6401 9101–76 oder –78
E-Mail: info@junggaertner.de; Internet: www.junggaertner.de

The Association of Young German Horticulturists (AdJ) was founded in 1928 and is a national organisation of young people working in horticulture.

The organisation's objective is to represent the interests of young people in horticultural occupations. As a professional youth organisation, it provides a platform for contacts between employees and future employers. AdJ supports the education and training of young horticulturalists, wants to enable them to take responsible actions, and encourages their participation in identifying solutions for public responsibilities. It fosters contacts between young horticulturalists in Germany and abroad and develops its co-operation with other youth organisations.

AdJ pursues its objectives on four levels. The local groups host group meetings in the evening, when they address issues of professional and general interest; they organise social events and educational excursions and participate in exhibitions and festivals. The state organisations host seminars, courses and meetings of young horticulturalists; they inform the local groups of current news for the occupation and youth activities and represent the members' interests in the structures of the federal organisation. The Federal organisation informs the local groups and state organisations on all issues, which are of interest for young horticulturalists. It maintains contacts to ministries, authorities, professional and youth organisations and the press, and it organises a large number of activities. Most activities organised by the Federal organisation are hosted in the Education Centre for the German Horticultural Profession (Bildungsstätte des deutschen Gartenbaus) in Grünberg (Hesse).

AdJ is an associate member of the German Federation of Rural Youth (Bund der Deutschen Landjugend) of the German Farmers’ Association (Deutscher Bauernverband). On the international level, it is represented in the European Community of Young Horticulturists (CEJH), whose European office has been collocated with the German national office since 1999.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

The Association of Young German Horticulturists is represented nationwide through its Länder associations. Contact details are available at www.junggaertner.de.
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Schülerinnen- und Schülerarbeit (AES)

Working Group for Protestant Secondary School Student Services

Otto-Brenner-Str. 9; D–30159 Hannover
Tel.: +49 511–1215–140; Fax: +49 511–1215–299
E-Mail: aes@aej-online.de; Internet: www.aes-schuelerinnenarbeit.de

AES, the Working Group for Protestant Secondary School Student Services, is the national association of facilities and agencies, which are run by the Regional Protestant Churches and address secondary school student issues. AES has 17 affiliated organisations from the 14 Regional Protestant Churches and a nationally operating member, International Christian Youth Exchange (ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit e.V.).

AES advocates a society offering solidarity and room for self-determined activities. AES promotes religious/ethical thinking and action from a Protestant-liberating perspective. AES and its affiliates work in two major areas: out-of-school and school work with young people. In its co-operation with schools, it offers cafés for secondary school students, hosts seminars on conflict resolution or organises pastoral care in schools. It also organises meetings of individual school classes on issues, which are selected by the students themselves, and it hosts trips to memorials. Its out-of-school activities include outings, work camps or seminars for secondary school student representation bodies.

Young volunteers have the majority of seats on the Board and in the General Assembly of the Working Group.

MEMBERS

Evangelische Schülerinnen- und Schülerarbeit Baden
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www.esb-netz.de

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Evangelische Schülerarbeit (BK)
Seestr. 35, D–13353 Berlin,
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Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Schüler (ACS)
Am Steinbruch 12, D–30449 Hannover,
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Landesjugendpfarramt SchülerInnenarbeit
Archivstr. 3, D–30169 Hannover,
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Fachbereich Kinder- und Jugendarbeit im Zentrum Bildung
er der EKHN – SchülerInnenarbeit
Erbacher Str. 17, D–64287 Darmstadt,
Tel. +49 6151 6690–110,
www.ev-jugend.de/ekhn

Villa Jühling
Semmelweisstr. 6, D–06120 Halle/Saale,
Tel. +49 345 590380,
www.villajuehling.de

Arbeitsgemeinschaft TEO
c/o Amt für die Arbeit mit Kindern und Jugendlichen, Bischofsstr. 4, D–19055 Schwerin,
Tel. +49 385 590380,
www.evjume.de

Nordelbisches Jugendpfarramt Ev. Schülerinnen- und Schülerarbeit
Koppelsberg 5, D–24306 Plön,
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www.schuelerinnenarbeit.de

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Tel. +49 441 7701–406, Fax +49 441 7701–499,
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Prot. Landesjugendpfarramt Schulbezogene Jugendarbeit / Ev. SchülerInnenarbeit
Unionstr. 1, D–67657 Kaiserslautern,
Tel. +49 631 3642–025, Fax +49 631 3642–099,
www.landesjugendpfarramt.de
Evangelische Schüler- und Schülerinnenarbeit im Rheinland e. V. – ESR
Graf-Recke-Str. 209, D–40237 Düsseldorf,
Tel. +49 211 3610270, Fax +49 211 3610272,
www.esr-online.de

Evangelische Schülerinnen- und Schülerarbeit in Westfalen (BK) e. V. – eSw
Ergster Weg 59, D–58093 Hagen,
Tel. +49 2334 9610-0, Fax +49 2334 961049,
www.esw-berchum.de

LakiSa – Landeskirchliche Schülerinnen- und Schülerarbeit im Ev. Landesjugendpfarramt in Württemberg
Haeberlinstr. 1–3, D–70563 Stuttgart,
Tel. +49 711 9781-186, Fax +49 711 9781–105,
www.lakisa.de

ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit e. V.

Ev. Luth. Landesjugendpfarramt Sachsen Begegnungs- und Bildungsarbeit Referat für Schülerinnen- und Schülerarbeit
Caspar-David-Friedrich-Str. 5, D–01219 Dresden,
Tel. +49 351 4739029,
www.evjusa.de

Landesstelle für Jugendarbeit der Ev.- Luth. Kirche in Thüringen
c/o Referat SchülerInnenarbeit,
Zinzendorfplatz 3, D–99192 Neudietendorf,
Tel. +49 36202 21651, Fax +49 36202 21659,
www.ejth.de
The Working Party of Central Youth Organisations (AzJ) was founded in 1959 and is a national association of voluntary youth service providers who all enjoy the same rights in the Working Party. AzJ represents more than 100,000 young members and is affiliated to the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

It represents its affiliates in all areas of youth policy and defines its tasks as follows: representing the interests of its members in public and vis-à-vis the state with its authorities, agencies and facilities, participating in solving the problems of the young generation, political education activities, exchanges of experience between youth organisations, organising joint actions and education events in Germany and abroad as well as cooperating with all democratic structures.

AzJ also represents the interests of its members as a central funding office with the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend).

MEMBERS

- Bundesjugend für Computer, Kurzschrift und Medien im Deutschen Stenografenbund e.V.
- Bund der Kaufmannsjugend im DHV
- Dachverband der Jugendpresse e.V.
- Deutsch-Japanische Jugendgesellschaft e.V.
- Deutscher Jugendbund Kyffhäuser e.V.
- Deutsche Philatelisten-Jugend e.V. – Bundesverband der jungen Briefmarkenfreunde
- Deutsche Waldjugend – Bundesverband e.V.
- Europäische Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg e.V.
- Paneuropa-Jugend Deutschland e.V.
- THW-Jugend e.V.
Bund der Alevitischen Jugendlichen in Deutschland e.V. /
Almanya Alevi Gençler Birliği

Federation of Alewite Youth in Germany

Stolberger Str. 317; D-50933 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 9498–560; Fax: +49 221 9498–5610
E-Mail: info@aagb.net; Internet: www.aagb.net

The Federation of Alewite Youth in Germany is the German national association of young Alewites between the ages of 16 and 27 and considers itself as a partner for young Alewites living in Germany. It is the youth organisation of the Federation of Alewite Congregations in Germany (Föderation der Aleviten-Gemeinden in Deutschland, AABF). Its activities date back to 1993. At present, 38 associations are organised in the national umbrella organisation. The association is funded primarily by membership fees and currently has five regional organisations.

The Federation of Alewite Youth in Germany wants to create the necessary conditions for youth work in its affiliated associations and to assist them in designing their youth activities. The work of the Federation also touches upon issues such as integration policies, career perspectives, xenophobia, human rights, religious education in schools, environmental protection and information in fields such as crime, drugs and sexuality. In its projects, the Federation works and cooperates with other youth groups in Germany, which also work for the peaceful coexistence of the indigenous population and all immigrants living in Germany. The Federation offers Alewite youth an opportunity for a voluntary involvement and participation in youth work. Since the end of 2002, the Federation has been an associate member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

REGIONAL STRUCTURE
The Federation of Alewite Youth in Germany has a nationwide structure with five regional organisations. Contact details are available from the Federation’s head office.
Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend

Federation of German Catholic Youth

Carl-Mosterts-Platz 1, D–40420 Düsseldorf
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Berlin Office
Chausseestr. 128/129, D–10115 Berlin
E-Mail: berlin@bdkj.de

Catholic, political, active: founded in 1947, the Association of German Catholic Youth (BDKJ) is the umbrella association of 15 Catholic youth associations today and represents the interests of its members in politics, church and society. Through its affiliated associations, there are more than 650,000 children and young people aged between seven and 28 in BDKJ. Thus, the umbrella organisation of Catholic youth organisations is one of the biggest associations in the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR) and also a member of the Central Committee of German Catholics (Zentralkomitee der deutschen Katholiken, ZdK).

BDKJ is organised in municipalities, counties, the Länder, on the national level and in church territories – the 26 dioceses. The affiliates and their regional groups are active on all levels in forming the opinions and aims of the umbrella association, and in all decision-making organs and advisory committees of BDKJ.

BDKJ strives to enable and stimulate boys and girls to critically judge and independently act on the basis of their responsibility as Christians. This includes campaigning for a just world with solidarity. It regards itself as a societal power in the church and is active in the development of church, society and state, and in international relations. The basic principles of work in Catholic associations are democracy, participation, Christian beliefs, self-organisation, volunteering, voluntarism and young people’s identification with these views. The work of BDKJ and its affiliates as supporters of Catholic youth work also includes political, educational and spiritual activities.

The Federation of German Catholic Youth is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

MEMBERS

ORGANISATIONS

► Aktion West-Ost im BDKJ – Arbeitsgemeinschaft für europäische Friedensfragen
  Bund der St. Sebastianus-Schützenjugend
  Carl-Mosterts-Platz 1, D–40477 Düsseldorf,
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► CAJ – Christliche ArbeiterInnenjugend

► Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg

► DJK-Sportjugend im DJK-Sportverband e.V.
  Gemeinschaft Christlichen Lebens – Jungen und Männer
  Sternagasse 3, D–86150 Augsburg,
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► Katholische Junge Gemeinde

► Katholische Landjugendbewegung Deutschlands e.V.
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bdkj-sh@gmx.net
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BDKJ-Regionalbüro Vorpommern
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Tel. +49 3831 29527,
info@bdkj-berlin.de

DIOCESE ORGANISATIONS/CITY, COUNTY AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The 27 diocese organisations of BDKJ in 27 cities can be accessed at www.bdkj.de. The city, county and regional organisations of BDKJ are available from its business address.
The German Federation of Rural Youth (BDL) was founded in 1949 and is the autonomous youth organisation of the German Farmers’ Association. It is an association of active young people from rural areas. 100,000 rural youth between 15 and 35 are active in the local, county and district groups of the 18 Länder associations.

BDL’s activities focus on representing the interests of rural youth, farmers, winegrowers vis-à-vis politics and the public and on safeguarding the educational, social, societal and cultural interests of young people living in the country. BDL hosts outings, seminars and camps for its members, organises international meetings and language courses, trains team leaders and group interpreters. BDL also supports young people in rural areas through its education programme. Its purpose is to create perspectives for young people to live and stay in rural areas. BDL therefore wants to maintain, improve and further develop the quality of life in the country. It is committed to training and employment opportunities in rural areas, advocates a sustainable economic, energy, agricultural and environmental policy and demands the continuation of agriculture on all arable tracts of land. BDL’s activities also include international youth exchange and the representation of its interests on the European level. Together with its French partner organisation, it organises bi-national language courses and group interpreter courses, which are intended as support for agricultural and general exchange trips. It also offers training in intercultural mediation and constructive conflict management.

BDL co-operates with “Rural Youth Europe” (RYE), a federation of 20 national associations of rural youth from all over Europe. BDL also co-operates with “Conseil Européen des Jeunes Agriculteurs” (CEJA), a federation of European organisations of young farmers. BDL organises an exchange of information and interns with many countries in Eastern Europe in the aim of learning about activities for rural youth in the newly structured associations in Central and Eastern Europe.

The German Federation of Rural Youth is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (► Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

With its 18 Länder associations, the German Federation of Rural Youth is represented nationwide. Contact details are available at: www.landjugend.de.

EXTRAORDINARY MEMBER

► Arbeitsgemeinschaft deutscher Junggärtner e.V.
Bund der Kaufmannsjugend im DHV

Association of Young Germans in Industry and Commerce

César-Klein-Ring 40, D-22309 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 632802-19, Fax: +49 40 632802-18
E-Mail: kaufmannsjugend@dhv-cgb.de; Internet: www.dhv-cgb.de

The Association of Young Germans in Industry and Commerce in DHV is the youth organisation of DHV – The Professional Union (DHV – Die Berufsgewerkschaft, formerly: German Organisation for Industry and Commerce Employees), which is the trade union for commercial trades and represents the interests of white-collar employees.

Its activities are based on the following basic values: the will to live in freedom and responsibility, justice, solidarity and charity. It considers youth work as education and defines its task as promoting the professional personal development of young commercial employees and familiarising them with Christian social principles. In its youth education, the Association of Young Germans in Industry and Commerce wants to teach its members a historical awareness, which fills the notions of people, home country and nation with meaning and contents and enables friendship with the European peoples on the basis of mutual respect. It believes in the principle of achievement in business and society and supports the democratic rule of law and the social market economy as the regulatory principles of society which give individuals the highest possible level of individual freedom in all areas of life.

In its international meetings, it promotes the exchange of experience with young people in other countries and is committed to international understanding. The Association of Young Germans in Industry and Commerce organises 7,400 commercial employees up to the age of 27.

The Association of Young Germans in Industry and Commerce is a member of the Working Party of Central Youth Organisations (Arbeitskreis zentraler Jugendverbände).
Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder e.V.

Girl Guides and Scouts Association

Im Kesselhacken 2; D–34376 Immenhausen
Tel.: +49 5673 99584–0; Fax: +49 5673 99584–44
E-Mail: info@pfadfinden.de; Internet: www.pfadfinden.de

The Girl Guides and Scouts Association (BdP) was founded in 1976 as an inter-denom-
inational, co-educative youth association as a result of the amalgamation of the Boy
Scouts Association (► Bund der Pfadfinder) and the German Girl Guides Association
(► Bund Deutscher Pfadfinderinnen). For its representation on the national and inter-
national level, BdP cooperates with its denominational partners, the German Boy Scouts
Association of St George (► Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg), the Girl Guides
Association of St George (► Pfadfinderinnenschaft Sankt Georg) and the Christian Girl
Guides and Boy Scouts Association (► Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfad-
finder).

Scouting is characterised by the objectives of modern youth work in combination
with traditional elements. Scouting activities involve the entire individual: sports, crafts
and musical activities, outdoor life, addressing ecological challenges as well as meetings
with foreign children and young people are elements in its activities. BdP is open to
everyone.

Using the scouting method, BdP wants to assist young people in realising their
potential as individuals and as part of our society and wants to guide young people
towards social and political involvement. The Scouts and Guides movement is an inter-
national youth movement. This is the basis for BdP’s education for international under-
standing and peace.

In order to meet the requirements of appropriate educational methods, forums
and contents for all age groups, BdP organises its activities in three age groups: Cubs
and Brownies (7–11), Scouts and Guides (12–16), Rangers and Rovers (16 and older).
Together with the denominational associations, i.e. the German Boy Scouts Association
of St George (► Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg), the Girl Guides Association
of St George (► Pfadfinderinnenschaft Sankt Georg) and the Christian Girl Guides and
Boy Scouts Association (► Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder), BdP
is affiliated to the German Federal Youth Council (► Deutscher Bundesjugendring) and
the world scouts and guides organisations.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

The Girl Guides and Scouts Association is represented nationwide through its 12 Länder associations. Contact
details are available at www.pfadfinden.de.
Bund Deutscher PfadfinderInnen e. V.

German Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association

Baumweg 10; D–60316 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 431030; Fax: +49 69 4059595
E-Mail: bundesverband@bdp.org; Internet: www.bdp.org

The German Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association (BDP) was founded in 1948. During the youth and student movement of the 1960s, there was a split of the BDP organisation. It ultimately broke away from the old structures in 1972, when the traditional wing left the BDP organisation and was reconstituted as Girl Guides and Scouts Association (Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder BdP).

BDP organises groups for children and young people, youth meetings, adventure playgrounds, mobile play centres, seminars on specific topics, and events on cultural, ecological and political issues. Other scouting elements promoting democratic awareness have also been retained, i.e. BDP organises trips and camps with a lot of fun and games. In addition to these community experiences, there are political scouting activities abroad in order to explore other cultures and to promote friendships with young people from other countries. BDP’s work does not only take place in fixed groups; it is primarily considered instead as “open work”, where anyone may participate.

BDP’s claims stated that it is an association based on the principles of grassroots democracy, anti-racism, the emancipation of women and the integration of persons with disabilities as well as freedom from answering to any adult organisation. BDP encourages emancipatory, self-determined work by and with children and young people and wants to contribute to children and young people being involved in their own affairs and committed to a democratic and humane future in solidarity.

The German Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

With its 14 Länder associations, the German Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association is active nationwide. Contact details are available at www.bdp.org.
The Federal Association of Protestant Youth in Rural Areas (BAG ejl) is a specialist organisation for Protestant youth work issues, which are related to rural areas, agriculture and ecology. BAG ejl is a network of professionals for youth work in rural areas, ecological education and agricultural/social subjects. It considers itself as the national organisation representing the interests of young people from rural regions and is involved in the professional and political opinion-making process in the responsible bodies. BAG ejl’s programmes are based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are open to all young people from rural areas and all youth work professionals.

BAG ejl is a partner organisation of the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland, aej).
Bundesjugend für Computer, Kurzschrift und Medien im Deutschen Stenografenbund e.V.

Federal Youth for Computer, Shorthand and Media in the German Stenographers’ Association

Auf der Heide 12; D-35510 Butzbach
Tel.: +49 6447 922355; Fax: +49 6447 7406
E-Mail: info@bjckm.de; Internet: www.bjckm.de

The Federal Youth for Computer, Shorthand and Media in the German Stenographers’ Association (Deutsche Stenografenjugend, DStJ) was founded in 1947 and is the youth organisation of the German Stenographers’ Association. It has been active in modern youth work since its establishment and has a focus on non-formal learning as an autonomous field of social learning, which is largely co-determined and designed by the young people themselves.

In addition to its specialised activities involving stenography, typing and word processing, the organisation organises an annual competition, the Federal Youth Writing Contest (Bundesjugendschreiben). Furthermore, the Federal Youth for Computer, Shorthand and Media (BJCKM) hosts seminars, courses, study tours, expert conferences, lectures and discussions.

Its programme for extracurricular education includes career-oriented cultural and political education, sports and international youth work. Through its educational activities, BJCKM wants to enable young people to identify social connections and conflicts and to put young people in a position to determine their own economic, social and political interests and to defend them on all levels of society.

BJCKM is a member of the Working Party of Central Youth Organisations (Arbeitskreis zentraler Jugendverbände).
The Association of Youth Groups within the German Organisation for the Hearing Impaired, which has been independent since 1992, was founded back in 1958 as a union of youth groups in the local associations of the German Association for the Hearing Impaired. Based on the realisation that, from birth or from early childhood, those affected have a different mentality from those who become hearing impaired at a later age or those who lose their hearing, a new orientation was established that focuses on dealing with the complex living problems of people who are hearing impaired from an early age and the search for new forms of communication. As an interest group of people who are hearing impaired from an early age up to the age of 35, it particularly tackles their communication problems in daily life and the special needs of young people with hearing impairments.

Various activities are held in the youth groups, including sports, disco evenings, film evenings, discussion groups, outings. Furthermore, some national weekend leisure activities are part of the programme, and are mostly leisure-oriented or focus on a hearing impairment topic in the form of a seminar. The youth group work aims to establish an awareness of the problem of one’s own hearing impairment and thus enable participants to tackle their everyday-life barriers in training and at work, as well as in later life.

One important project of the Association of Youth Groups within the German Organisation for the Hearing Impaired is called “In Ear” (www.in-ohr.de). The network for hearing impaired student of regular schools aims to create a network of hearing impaired students of standard schools, their parents and teachers and to educate them on the consequences of hearing impairment in everyday school life. The project aims to use the Internet and leisure activities to promote contacts among hearing impaired pupils of standard schools and organises various events and joint projects. The website contains information on the topic of hearing impairments, reports from students of regular schools and a forum where interested parties can exchange views on all topics concerning school and hearing impairments. The initiators of the network are themselves hearing impaired and also attended a regular school.

By its membership in the umbrella association “German Society for the Support of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Individuals” (Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Gehörlosen und Schwerhörigen), as well as the co-operation with other institutions and associations working for and with the hearing impaired, its interests are also represented outside of the Association.

**YOUTH GROUPS**

Contact addresses of the local youth groups are available at www.schwerhoerigen-netz.de/bundesjugend.
Bundesjugendwerk der Arbeiterwohlfahrt e. V.

Federal Youth Foundation of the Workers’ Welfare Association

Markgrafenstr. 11; D-10969 Berlin
Tel.: +49 228 6685-117; Fax: +49 30 36445606
E-Mail: info@bundesjugendwerk.de; Internet: www.bundesjugendwerk.de

The Federal Youth Foundation of the Workers’ Welfare Association (Arbeiterwohlfahrt, AWO) was established in 1978 as a union of all district and Länder youth foundations and became a member of the Federal Youth Council (Bundesjugendring) in 1981. After Germany’s reunification, it started setting up youth foundations in the new Länder (Federal states) and it is now represented in all Länder.

The objective of the Federal Youth Foundation is to advocate democracy, solidarity and justice in our society. Its activities are based on the principles of democratic socialism. This means that, through their participation in the activities of the Federal Youth Foundation, children and young people are enabled to actively participate in the design of life in our society and to defend their own interests and rights. The (Federal) Youth Foundation of AWO is committed to freedom, equality and tolerance as its key values. Together with other youth organisations, it works for a progressive youth policy and an improved situation of disadvantaged children and young people in Germany.

The activities of the District and Länder Youth Foundations are highly diverse. They include group activities with and for children and young people, operate youth clubs and mobile play units, host international youth meetings, holiday trips and suburban recreation programmes and a very lively seminar and education programme. As the umbrella organisation of the District and Länder Youth Foundations, the Federal Youth Foundation co-operates closely with the former and organises working sessions and meetings for full-time and volunteer staff and invites all ‘Youth Foundationers’ to its biannual Federal Youth Meeting (Bundesjugendtreffen). The Federal Youth Foundation takes a public stand for the participation of children and young people in all areas of life and against racism, xenophobia, right-wing extremism and child and youth poverty. The Federal Youth Foundation also acts as the central agency for the management of various international funding instruments and offers advice regarding the use, organisation and accounting of such funding in connection with international youth meetings and expert programmes. Furthermore, the Federal Youth Foundation regularly organises further education seminars for applicants.

The Federal Youth Foundation of the Workers’ Welfare Association is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

DISTRICT AND LÄNDER YOUTH FOUNDATIONS
Contact details are available at www.bundesjugendwerk.de.
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

CAJ – Christliche ArbeiterInnenjugend

YCW – Young Christian Workers

Hüttmannstr. 52; D-45143 Essen
Tel.: +49 201 621065; Fax: +49 201 626671
E-Mail: bundesverband@caj.de; Internet: www.caj.de

YCW – Young Christian Workers in Germany was founded in 1947. It regards itself as an element of the German labour movement, it is the autonomous youth organisation the Catholic Workers’ Movement of Germany (Katholische Arbeitnehmerbewegung Deutschland, KAB) and affiliated to the Federation of German Catholic Youth (Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend, BDKJ).

YCW’s objective is to defend the dignity and the rights of young workers, trainees and the young unemployed in all areas of society. Based on the life of young people, YCW offers them an opportunity to organise themselves, to analyse their life and their working conditions, to develop options for joint actions and, together with them, to defend the opportunities of every individual for humane employment.

As a Catholic youth organisation, YCW wants to create a church, in which the Christian faith is evident in its actions at all times. For YCW, being a Christian means a commitment to individuals who have been marginalised by society. Motivated by the Gospel and the sense of community experienced in the organisation, it strives for appropriate ways for young people to experience their faith.

CYW intentionally addresses young people, to whom the Church does not mean very much or who are unable to relate to the Christian faith.

DIOCESAN ASSOCIATIONS

Through its diocesan associations, CYW is organised in 21 dioceses. Contact addresses are available at www.caj.de.
CVJM-Gesamtverband in Deutschland e. V.

National Council of YMCAs in Germany

Im Druseltal 8; D-34131 Kassel
Tel.: +49 561 3087-0; Fax: +49 561 3087-270
E-Mail: info@cvjm.de; Internet: www.cvjm.de

The National Council of YMCAs in Germany (CVJM) was founded in 1882 and is an umbrella organisation for Christian youth work. It is a federation of 13 autonomous affiliated organisations, whose co-operation is promoted by the National Council. The YMCA movement in Germany today counts approximately 260,000 members or regular participants.

The German YMCA is a member of the World Alliance of YMCAs, which was founded in Paris in 1855 and currently has a membership of approximately 125 nationalities with approximately 45 million members and participants. It was created as an organisation for young men. Its foundation is the “Paris Basis”, which reads as follows: “The Young Men’s Christian Associations seek to unite those young men who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be his disciples in their faith and in their life and to associate their efforts for the extension of His Kingdom amongst young men.” Today, YMCA membership is open to individuals from all social classes irrespective of their faith, their ethnic origins, their gender or cultural origins. Since its name change in 1985, the German acronym CVJM stands for “Christlicher Verein junger Menschen” (Christian Association of Young People).

The objective of YMCA activities is to familiarise people with Jesus Christ, to call on them to turn around and follow Jesus Christ and to help them to design their lives with creativity and in the service for others. The National Council of YMCAs in Germany represents its members vis-à-vis the church, the state and the public on the Federal level; it primarily fulfils joint obligations, which require common action and are of inter-regional significance for its affiliated associations.

Its co-operation in the areas of children, young adults and adults, in music and sports activities takes the form of conferences, committees, working groups and major national staff meetings or publications. There are activities in children’s groups for the six-to-eight-year-olds, youngster groups for the 9-to-13-year olds, but also activities, which are open to all children. The YMCAs reach out to young people in the 13-to-16-year age bracket in youth clubs, boys’ groups, girls’ groups, youth groups and with open activities. There is a wide variety of choirs, youth choirs, bands, brass bands and TEN-SING groups.

Other fields of activity involve youth social work, work with young adults and young families. Some local YMCAs operate daycare centres for children and facilities offering vocational services to young people. A growing field of activity is the co-operation with all-day schools. CJD is the affiliated association, which is primarily active in youth social work and youth vocational services.

The National Council of YMCAs in Germany is a recognized provider of voluntary youth services and a recognized provider of the Voluntary Social Service Year (FSJ) in Germany and abroad as well as other programmes for international volunteer services.

Through the World Alliance of YMCAs, the National Council of YMCAs in Germany co-operates with its partners in the other National YMCA Councils in African, Asian, Latin American and European countries. These partnerships are oriented towards developing and enhancing the local YMCA movements.
YMCA Sports is affiliated to the German Olympic Sports Confederation (Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund, DOSB) and offers a wide range of leisure, mass and competitive sports programmes to YMCA members and non-members. It organises its own German championships for basketball, football, handball, indiaca, table tennis and volleyball. There are European Championships for basketball, handball, table tennis and volleyball.

The German YMCA has operated its own training centre for full-time staff in Christian youth services in Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe since 1928.

**MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

The affiliated associations of the National Council of YMCAs in Germany are listed on its website ([www.cvjm.de](http://www.cvjm.de)).
Deutsche Bläserjugend in der Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Musikverbände e.V. (BDMV)

German Young Wind Players

Weberstr. 59; D-53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 262680; Fax: +49 228 262682
E-Mail: info@deutsche-blaeserjugend.de;
Internet: www.deutsche-blaeserjugend.de

German Young Wind Players (DBJ) was founded in 1981 as the youth organisation of the Federal Association of German Wind and Folk Music Organisations (Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Musikverbände, BDMV) and represents children and young people from music clubs, marching bands and trumpeters’ parades as well as other areas of amateur music.

DBJ’s mission is to represent the joint interests of its affiliated associations on the Federal level, in our state and society as well as in Germany and abroad. It also advises its affiliated associations, promotes their further education and continues education efforts, drafts nationwide guidelines for the training of young musicians and multipliers, organises national meetings of its affiliated associations, arranges and organises events and is active in public relations on the Federal level.

DBJ supports modern extracurricular youth work and making music in modern communities. It wants to contribute to the development of young people’s personalities, to promote their social skills and abilities, to encourage the social commitment of young musicians and to foster their preparedness to show international understanding through meetings with foreign groups. In its activities, DBJ is guided by the conviction that music is invaluable for the development of children and young people.

DBJ represents more than 350,000 children and young people, who are active in more than 10,000 clubs throughout the Federal Republic. It is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR) and the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung, BKJ).

The DBJ national office is in Bonn; the organisation has been represented with an office in Berlin since 2007. This office is also the location of its youth education section: Mühlendamm 3, D-10178 Berlin, Tel.: +49 30 21221163.

MEMBERS

With its Länder and professional associations, DBJ is represented nationwide. Their current contact addresses are available at www.deutsche-blaeserjugend.de.
Deutsche Chorjugend e.V.

German Youth Choir Association

Höninger Weg 115; D-50969 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 93499-89; Fax: +49 221 93499-92
E-Mail: info@deutsche-chorjugend.de; Internet: www.deutsche-chorjugend.de

With around 100,000 young singers, the German Youth Choir Association (previously: Youth Choir in the German Choir Association) is the biggest interest group for singing youth in Germany. Under the umbrella association of the German Youth Choir Association, the youth association, which has been independent since 1995, is responsible for 3,500 children and youth choirs and their members.

The services of the German association and its affiliated associations comprise various sectors of cultural youth work. There are numerous offers of training and further training for singers, choirmasters, youth leaders, educators and association chairpeople. With nationally uniform programmes, the German Youth Choir Association promotes the musical training of children and young people. The German association also campaigns for uniform standards in the training of choirmasters of children and youth choirs. Youth leaders and youth work volunteers are trained in special seminars.

With events such as ChorVision, the campaign “Singing Moves – Day of Young Voices” and specialist conferences on current topics, the German Youth Choir Association provides impulses for choir work with children and young persons.

The German Youth Choir Association organises international youth movements and co-operates with the Working Group of European Choir Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Chorverbände), for which the EUROCHOR 2006 was recently held in Dresden. An outstanding representative of the German Youth Choir Association in Germany and abroad is the German Youth Chamber Choir (Deutscher Jugendkammerchor), which has won multiple prizes at international choir festivals.

Since 2002, the German Youth Choir Association has been a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR).
German Esperanto Youth (DEJ) was established in 1951 and is the youth organisation of the German Esperanto Organisation (Deutscher Esperanto-Bund). As the German national organisation, DEJ is affiliated to the World Federation of Young Esperantists (“Tutmonda Esperantista Junulara Organizo”, TEJO).

DEJ is active in youth work on the international level as a provider of voluntary youth services. Its aim is to contribute to international understanding by using the international Esperanto language. Meetings of young people from various countries without language barriers, their joint activities on sociopolitical issues and young people’s direct co-operation in planning and implementing joint projects and leisure time activities are intended to broaden the participants’ personal horizon especially beyond their national borders and to assist them in changing their thinking patterns in order to deepen their mutual understanding and, last but not least, to counter xenophobic thinking.

DEJ's target group are children, young people and young adults below the age of 26, who are favourable to the idea of international understanding by learning the Esperanto language. DEJ's offer to get to know this international language is therefore an essential element of its open youth work. DEJ organises regular local and international meetings, further education courses and youth meetings of various types: seminars on interesting issues from a youth policy perspective, trips and tours as well as leisure-time activities and language courses. DEJ organises trips to Esperanto events abroad and arranges pen friendships. Since 1957, there has been an annual International Week (“Internatica Seminaro”), where approximately 300 young people from approximately 30 countries meet for a cultural exchange.

The association’s magazine “kune” is published in German and in Esperanto. DEJ co-operates closely with its partner organisations abroad and is a facilitator of the “Pasporta Servo” hosting service, a directory of now 1,100 private hosts in approximately 80 countries, who offer Esperanto-speaking young people free accommodation in their homes.

German Esperanto Youth is an associate member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
DEJ is active in its Länder associations in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Brandenburg, Hamburg, Hesse, Northrhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Saxony. Contact addresses are available at the National office and can be found on the Association’s website (www.esperanto.de/dej).
Deutsche Jugend aus Russland e.V.

German Youth from Russia

Landhausstr. 5; D-70182 Stuttgart
Tel.: +49 711 28494-80; Fax: +49 711 28494-79
E-Mail: djr-bund@t-online.de; Internet: www.djr-bund.de

German Youth from Russia (DJR) is a non-partisan and non-denominational youth organisation founded in 1999. It targets students, secondary school students and young employees. In its information and orientation seminars, outings and encounter weekends, in various projects in the areas of integration, culture and sports, probation services, and in its ongoing consultancy and support services, the association is actively involved in designing the youth policy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

DJR wants to overcome the lack of knowledge about one’s own history, to develop a better understanding and an insight into the problems and to enable a more intensive communication between indigenous Germans and Germans from Russia. In parallel to the linguistic campaign initiated by the Federal government, it wants to communicate information on today’s German society. Its objective also is to make young people feel at home in Germany as quickly as possible. As a result, it offers a kind of “empowerment”. It works exclusively on a voluntary basis.

In its social care activities, it co-operates closely with Protestant and Catholic provider groups, and with IB, AWO and the youth councils.
Deutsche Jugendfeuerwehr im Deutschen Feuerwehrverband e. V.

German Junior Fire Brigades

Bundesjugendbüro
Reinhardtstr. 25; D-10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 288848-810; Fax: +49 30 288848-819
E-Mail: info@jugendfeuerwehr.de; Internet: www.jugendfeuerwehr.de

The German Junior Fire Brigades (DJF) were founded in 1964 and are the youth wing of the German Fire Brigades Association (DFV). Their members are all young people who subscribe to the ideals of voluntary fire services in Junior Fire Brigades and actively work for their realisation. The German Junior Fire Brigades want to educate its members to exercise active charity, cultivate and promote community life and democratic lifestyles among their young members, they want to serve the ideal of mutual understanding and peace among nations and to support the affiliated Junior Fire Brigades in realising these objectives. DJF’s specific aim is to cater to the interests and needs of young people in its education programme and the concepts of its training courses. Individual elements of such courses are freedom, voluntarism, mobility and eagerness to take action.

At present, 250,000 girls and boys between the ages of 10 and 18 are affiliated to DJF and organised in 17,000 groups, where they are responsible for their own affairs and take their own decisions. Among other things, DJF offers its young members training, leisure-time activities, fitness training, games, excursions, ecological activities, festivals and community services and not least an exposure to media and technologies.

The German Junior Fire Brigades promote the development of the following qualities: willingness to help, democratic awareness, equal rights, shared responsibility, readiness for peace, fairness and tolerance, a challenging attitude and emotional control.

The German Junior Fire Brigade is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

The German Junior Fire Brigades are represented nationwide through 16 Länder associations. Contact details are available at www.jugendfeuerwehr.de.
Deutsche Marine-Jugend e.V.

German Marine Youth

Memelstr. 19; D-58638 Iserlohn
Tel.: +49 2371 27106; Fax: +49 2371 27106
E-Mail: bugest@dmj.de; Internet: www.dmj.de

The German Marine Youth (DMJ) was established in 1926 in the aim of promoting the interest of young people for international understanding as embodied in the “spirit of the sea”, for seafaring and marine sports in general.

Its activities focus on youth work and youth services. Their emphasis is on training for marine sports such as sailing and cutter rowing; it also organises competitions in marine sports, trips, seminars, model building and international youth exchanges.

DMJ is a partner association of the German Marine Sports organisation (Deutscher Seesportverband) and is affiliated to the international “Sea Cadet Corps”.

The association was restructured in 2002 and its Länder associations were re-organised.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

DMJ currently has 4 Länder associations (Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland/Palatinate/Saar, Northrhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony), which are divided into local chapters. Contact addresses are available at www.dmj.de
Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg

German Boy Scouts of Saint George

Martinstr. 2; D-41472 Neuss-Holzheim
Tel.: +49 2131 4699-90; Fax: +49 2131 4699-99
E-Mail: info@dpsg.de; Internet: www.dpsg.de

The German Boy Scouts of Saint George (DPSG), which were founded in 1929, are the association of Catholic scouts in the Federal Republic of Germany. Children, young people and adult group leaders are active in the DPSG. People of all nationalities and religions can become members. Currently, the DPSG consists of approx. 1,400 packs with 95,000 children, young people and young adults.

In the German Boy Scouts of Saint George, scouts embark on joint adventures. Their aim is to learn to take responsibility for themselves as well as for others in the group. The groups are divided by age: children from 8 to 10 start out as wolf cubs; when they turn 11, they become a member of a young scout troop; young persons between the ages of 14 and 16 become scouts, and afterwards, up to the age of 20, the rover stage is the organisational form of the scouting. The respective age groups of one or several scouting communities form a pack. For adults who are involved as scoutmasters in DPSG groups, the association offers methodical and content-related aids, information, courses and advice.

Justice is an important value for scouts. For example, they campaign against poverty locally and internationally and support equal rights. They treat people with disabilities as partners. People of all nations and religions can become members. Environmental protection is also an important task for scouts. By their simple living, they try to use resources sparingly and protect the environment. Furthermore, scouts support non-violent coexistence and peace worldwide, for example by partnerships with groups in other countries.

The DPSG is a member of the Federation of German Catholic Youth (Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend). Via the Council of German Scouting Associations (Ring deutscher Pfadfinderverbände), it is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR) and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). Together with the other Catholic committees or councils of correspondingly recognised scouting associations, the DPSG is a member of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS).

DIOCESE AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS
The DPSG is represented nationwide with its 25 diocese affiliated associations. Contact addresses are listed on www.dpsg.de.
Deutsche Philatelisten-Jugend e. V. – Bundesverband der jungen Briefmarkenfreunde

German Young Philatelists’ Association

Postfach 1353; D-52503 Geilenkirchen
Tel.: +49 2451 9124468; Fax: +49 2451 9124469
E-Mail: info@dphj.de; Internet: www.dphj.de

The German Young Philatelists’ Association (DPhJ) considers itself as the Federal association of young stamp collectors. It was established in 1956 and defines its main task as teaching young people culture, history, geography, economics, social affairs and politics by addressing the motifs and statements expressed by a stamp. Furthermore, the handling and discussion of stamps and postal receipts provides a meaningful and knowledge-enhancing recreational activity.

Using stamps as its medium, the association wants to motivate young people to participate in resolving the problems of the young generation, and it wants to promote the practical application of young people’s sense of responsibility and democratic behaviour. As an umbrella organisation, DPhJ supports its members and youth group leaders by organising training sessions and seminars, arranging pen friend relationships, organising exhibitions, hosting national and international meetings and by distributing teaching materials and information.

As a youth organisation, it is open to all children and young people between 8 and 21 years, and it represents 7,000 organised members.

LÄNDER BOARDS

The German Young Philatelists’ Association is represented nationwide through its 16 Lander Boards. Contact addresses are available at the Federal Association.
Deutsche Schreberjugend Bundesverband e. V.

German Schreber Youth

Kirschenallee 25; D-14050 Berlin
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Internet: www.deutsche-schreberjugend.de

German Schreber Youth is a recognized voluntary provider of children and youth services. Its main mission is to assist children and young people at present and in the future. In its efforts, the association pursues its claim that it will be involved in designing a society, which actively promotes creativity and individualism for the benefit of all children and young people.

As a non-partisan and non-denominational youth association, German Schreber Youth considers youth work as an element of general civic education. In its areas of (joint) activities, it thus contributes to the individual development of young people towards their self-realisation and their active participation in this society.

It is a concern of German Schreber Youth to show to children and young adults the societal conditions in various areas of life and to enable them to change these conditions and to co-design them in the context of the natural evolution of our society. As a result, both political education and cultural education are a particular focus. Tolerance and peaceful coexistence are important elements of its philosophy. The activities of German Schreber Youth are targeted to all children and young people and especially those coming from socially disadvantaged families and to young people with a migration background.

In its various programmes for children and young people (games, singing, crafts, outings, dance and sports groups, project work), the voluntary youth leaders of German Schreber Youth – according to the objectives of their teaching – want to encourage the individual to try social and democratic forms of behaviour, and they want to teach adventure education experiences to contribute to the positive socialisation of the young participants. The volunteers themselves are prepared in internal and external further education courses for their work with children and young people. In addition, there are seminars and professional conferences for young people and multipliers on issues of political and cultural education. The national committees of German Schreber Youth focus on issues such as youth and social policy, cultural education and child education theory, international youth work, environment and nature, work with girls and women.

As a youth association with nationwide activities, German Schreber Youth works through its Federal structures and co-operates with national and international youth organisations and groups as well as other partner organisations. It is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (▶ Deutscher Bundesjugendring) and numerous youth councils on the local, county and Länder level, and it belongs to the Child and Youth Welfare Association (▶ Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
Information on the structures of German Schreber Youth is available at www.deutsche-schreberjugend.de.
Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund (DOSB) e. V.

German Sports Youth in the German Olympic Sports Federation

Otto-Fleck-Schneise 12; D-60528 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 6700–338; Fax: +49 69 6700–1338
E-Mail: info@dsj.de; Internet: www.dsj.de

The German Sports Youth in the German Olympic Sports Federation (dsj) is the youth organisation in the German Olympic Sports Federation (Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund, DOSB). It was founded in 1950 and nationally represents approx. 9.5 million children and young people who are supported by the more than 90,000 associations of DOSB’s 79 affiliated organisations.

The dsj campaigns for the needs and objectives of all young people who play sports. It acts on a youth policy and sports policy level, aims to contribute to the personality development of young people, and to stimulate responsibility, the desire to participate and an understanding of democracy, and not least to promote social behaviour in order to stimulate societal commitment. It promotes participation by young people. dsj participates in the development of contemporary youth and education policy concepts and works as a partner with other societal groups, legislative bodies and political parties. Achieving international understanding by educational work, intercultural learning and meetings, and thus supporting the European integration process as well as supporting external and external tolerance, are further central dsj goals. On this basis, dsj provides varied offers that are available to all children and young people, and provides assistance to socially disadvantaged young people.

dsj is active in the following four fields:

In the focal work of “youth work in sport”, dsj demonstrates its sports competence with various projects, for example in the project entitled “Children’s World is a World of Movement” (www.kinderwelt-bewegungswelt.de) or the quality drive for youth work, which combines various activities of sports organisations (a central element is the information platform www.jugendprojekte-im-sport.de, which presents exemplary projects of youth work in sport). dsj is also active in doping prevention (e.g. the project “Sports without Doping” in the field of sport and schools, children and youth welfare.

The social commitment of dsj is e.g. demonstrated in social campaigns, for example the E & C programme entitled ‘Make children strong’, sport in the juvenile justice system, sport and immigration, the co-ordination centre for fan projects, the project “Youth for the Environment and Sport” and the project “Be on the Ball – Football against Racism and Discrimination”. The project entitled “Sport! Youth! Action!” combines the social projects and activities of dsj in children and youth sports.

dsj’s offer of experiences for those involved includes the promotion of civic commitment and volunteer positions as well as social talents. The junior team concept focuses on the participation of young people. dsj is a provider of the Voluntary Social Year in sport, multi-generation voluntary service in sports and alternative civil service in sports.

On an international level, dsj has launched the “Quality Drive for International Youth Work” and promotes youth meetings and exchanges, exchange of experience and contact programmes of youth leaders and youth sport managers from various European and non-European countries. Furthermore, it is involved in the expansion of youth sport in developing countries.
MEMBERS

LÄNDER SPORTS YOUTH

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info@lsbw.de, www.lbsw.de

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Georg-Brauchle-Ring 93, D-80992 München,
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bsj@bsj.de, www.bsj.de

Landessportbund Berlin e.V.
Jesse-Owens-Allee 2, D-14053 Berlin,
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Hamburger Sportjugend
Schaferkampsallee 1, D-20357 Hamburg,
Tel. +49 40 41908123, www.hamburger-sportjugend.de

Sportjugend Hessen
Otto-Fleck-Schneise 4, D-60528 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 6789270, Fax +49 69 69590175,
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Sportjugend Sachsen
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sportjugend@sport-fuer-sachsen.de,
www.sport-fuer-sachsen.de

Sportjugend im Landessportbund Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.
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Sportjugend Schleswig-Holstein
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Thüringer Sportjugend
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pastmaster@thuer-sportjugend.de,
www.thueringer-sportjugend.de

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS OF THE SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS

American Football Verband Deutschland e.V.
Otto-Fleck-Schneise 12, D-60528 Frankfurt/Main,
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Deutsche Badminton-Jugend
Südstr. 25, D-45470 Mülheim/Ruhr,
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office@badminton.de, www.badminton.de

Deutsche Baseball und Softball Jugend
Flugplatzstr. 31, D-55126 Mainz,
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info@baseball-softball.de,
www.baseball-softball.de

Deutsche Basketball-Jugend
Schwanenstr. 6-10, D-58089 Hagen,
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info@basketball-bund.de,
www.basketball-bund.de

Deutsche Behinderten-Sportjugend
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Deutsche Billard-Jugend
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www.billard-union.de

Deutsche Bob- und Rodeljugend
An der Schießstätte 6, D-83471 Berchtesgaden,
Tel. +49 8652 95880, Fax +49 8652 958822,
info@bsd-portal.de, www.bsd-portal.de

Deutsche Boxsport-Jugend
Korbacher Str. 93, D-34132 Kassel,
Tel. +49 561 103601, Fax +49 561 103602,
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Deutscher Verband für Modernen Fünfkampf
Deutscher Squash Verband e. V.
Deutscher Sportakrobatik Bund e. V.
Deutscher Skibob-Verband
Deutscher Ringer-Bund
Deutscher Rasenkraftsport- und Tauzieh-Verband e. V.
Deutscher Pétanque Verband e. V.
Deutscher Motoryachtverband e. V.
Deutscher Golf-Verband e. V.
Deutscher Fußball-Bund e. V.
Deutscher Eisstock-Verband e. V.
Deutscher Eishockey-Bund e. V.
Deutscher Curling-Verband e. V.
Deutsche Tischtennis-Jugend
Deutsche Sportfischer-Jugend
Deutsche Radsportjugend
Deutscher Skibob-Verband
Deutscher Golf-Verband e. V.
Deutscher Fußball-Bund e. V.
Deutscher Eisstock-Verband e. V.
Deutscher Eishockey-Bund e. V.
Deutscher Curling-Verband e. V.
Deutsche Tischtennis-Jugend
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Deutscher Curling-Verband e. V.
Deutsche Tischtennis-Jugend
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Deutsche Radsportjugend
Deutscher Skibob-Verband
Deutscher Golf-Verband e. V.
Deutscher Fußball-Bund e. V.
Deutscher Eisstock-Verband e. V.
Deutscher Eishockey-Bund e. V.
Deutscher Curling-Verband e. V.
Deutsche Trachtenjugend im Deutschen Trachtenverband e. V.

*German Folk Costumes and Dance Youth in the German Association for Folk Costumes and Dances*

Hohenkirchen Str. 13; D-99869 Günthersleben-Wechmar  
Tel.: +49 36256 38871; Fax: +49 36256 22265  
E-Mail: geschaeftsstelle@deutsche-trachtenjugend.de  
Internet: www.deutsche-trachtenjugend.de

The German Folk Costumes and Dance Youth is the Federal Association of all folk costume enthusiasts and folk dancers in Germany below the age of 27. After folk costumes and folk dances experienced a significant recovery in the mid-1970s, many long-standing member groups of the German Association for Folk Costumes and Dances, i.e. the association for adult members, formed their own youth groups, which then formed a national organisation or modernized existing older structures. This dynamic development, which included not only the traditional areas in southern Germany, but the entire Federal Republic of Germany, resulted in the establishment of nine Länder associations (seven in the old and two in the new states of the Federal Republic) and reached its peak in 1996 with the national establishment of the German Folk Costumes and Dance Youth.

Since 1990, the German Folk Costumes and Dance Youth has been an associate member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendoring), and it continues to pursue an active role in its work in its youth organisation and for the further development of its Länder associations. For the growing national coordination of activities, a Federal Office of the German Folk Costumes and Dance Youth was established in Günthersleben-Wechmar (Thuringia) in May 2006.
Deutsche Waldjugend – Bundesverband e. V.

German Young Foresters – Federal Association of the Society for the Protection of German Forests

Auf dem Hohenstein 3; D-58675 Hemer
Tel.: +49 2372 660849; Fax: +49 2372 62361
E-Mail: geschaeftsstelle@waldjugend.de; Internet: www.waldjugend.de

The German Young Foresters (DWJ) were founded in 1957, and as the youth organisation of the Society for the Protection of German Forests, the organisation is intended for all young people between 8 and 27, who wish to be involved in protecting our nature and the countryside.

The DWJ centres give a lot of room to responsibility, loyalty to the centres, voluntarism and thus the development of the young participants’ character. DWJ is a synthesis of factual responsibilities and group activities in the spirit of the German Bündische Jugend or German Youth Leagues, a movement of a wired variety of youth associations in the post-WWI period. Its activities are related to accepting sponsorships for forests and their care, building and maintaining nature trails and bird sanctuaries in Foresters’ camps and group evenings, weekend trips and longer excursions.

DWJ owns more than 150 huts or homes. In more than 320 centres, it accommodates approximately 4,800 members. It has published its own magazine since 1972.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
Contact addresses of the German Young Foresters are available at www.deutsche-waldjugend.de.
Deutsche Wanderjugend im Verband Deutscher Gebirgs- und Wandervereine e.V.

*German Young Ramblers Association*

Wilhelmshöher Allee 157; D-34121 Kassel
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E-Mail: info@wanderjugend.de; Internet: www.wanderjugend.de

The German Young Ramblers Association (DWJ) was founded in 1952. It is the youth organisation of 56 associations affiliated to the Association of German Mountaineering and Hiking Clubs (Verband Deutscher Gebirgs- und Wandervereine).

DWJ sees its main task in representing the interests of children and young people, offering them room for their personal development and growth into functions of social and societal responsibility. In its extracurricular activities, DWJ wants to teach meaningful action and responsibility in social, ecological and political affairs. DWJ is oriented to the changing needs and problems of young people, includes new perspectives in its practical youth work and gives consideration to established traditions – but it does not adopt them without reflection.

Its programme includes adventure hiking, when children and young people may experience a sense of community, camps, outdoor adventures, musical and cultural education such as meetings with foreign folk music groups, and other international youth meetings. In its landscaping programme, by accepting the sponsorship for a brook or stream and by organising nature conservation projects, promoting democratic and social actions, exchanging views, practising participation and project activities, DWJ makes a contribution to the ecological and political education of children and young people.

The German Young Ramblers Association is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS AND WORKING GROUPS

The contact addresses of DWJ Länder associations and working groups are available at www.deutsche-wanderjugend.de.
Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung

German Youth Association for the Study and Conservation of Nature

Geiststr. 2; D-37073 Göttingen
Tel.: +49 551 4899001
E-Mail: info@naturbeobachtung.de; Internet: www.naturbeobachtung.de

The German Youth Association for the Study and Conservation of Nature (DJN) was founded in 1950. The objectives of the activities pursued by DJN members are related to environmental issues and oriented towards the specific interests of its members. These activities are based on its member’s knowledge about nature, which they acquire in outings, group evenings and camps. Their newly acquired knowledge is to alert them to environmental problems and is therefore primarily educational and based on the following insight: “It is necessary to know about nature to protect nature”.

The activities pursued within DJN and its members’ ambition to have comprehensive information on environmental matters enable these members to develop an opinion on environmental problems. Their resulting ability to judge environmental matters puts DJN in a position to express demands and opinions and to comment on relevant problem areas.

DJN is a small, fully autonomous and self-governed association of members between 12 and 25. They are active in groups, districts or on the national level.
Deutscher Jugendbund Kyffhäuser e.V.

German Young Kyffhäuser Federation

Sülfelder Weg 7; D–22417 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 5372320; Fax: +49 40 5372320
E-Mail: info@djbk-ev.de; Internet: www.kyffhaeuserjugend.de

The German Young Kyffhäuser Federation (DJBK) – or Kyffhäuser Youth – is an autonomous youth organisation in the Kyffhäuser Federation (Kyffhäuserbund). In 1896, young people from all regions met at the Kyffhäuser monument to form an independent youth organisation based on the Kyffhäuser philosophy. From its very beginning (1786), the Kyffhäuser philosophy also contained a specific social aspect. In the first years and decades following the foundation of the Kyffhäuser Federation, the Federation was primarily concerned with alleviating the everyday plight of war victims, orphans, surviving dependants by providing support and assistance.

Young people below the age of 27 from all social classes are active in various DJBK groups to develop active, responsible recreational activities based on their own initiatives. DJBK’s youth work is not to be considered as merely ensuring the recruitment of young members for the Federation; it is instead an element of general social education. It includes all opportunities open to youth, is based on the principles of voluntarism and designed according to the interests and needs of the youth participating in local groups.

DJBK’s activities are focused on offering youth welfare services in the areas of culture, sports and civic education. There are youth groups with sports activities (judo, motor sports, archery etc.) or technical activities (amateur radio, model planes etc.), while others focus on musical and cultural education, trips, outings or regular youth group meetings. In addition, there are programmes offered by the Federal and the Länder associations: camps, sports competitions, meetings of marching bands, city tours or trips abroad, common ecological actions, political education tours.

DJBK is affiliated to the Working Party of Central Youth Organisations (Arbeitskreis zentraler Jugendverbände).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

The German Young Kyffhäuser Federation is represented in Länder associations. Contact addresses are available at www.djbk-ev.de.
Deutscher Jugendverband “Entschieden für Christus” (EC) e.V.

German Youth Federation for Christian Endeavour

Leuschnerstr. 74; D–34134 Kassel
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E-Mail: kontakt@ec-jugend.de; Internet: www.ec-jugend.de

The German Youth Federation for Christian Endeavor (EC) was formed in Germany in 1884 and is based on the ideas of Pastor Francis E. Clark (Portland/USA), who initiated the first EC youth federation in the United States of America in 1881. It is a youth organisation within the Protestant church. It primarily organises and designs youth activities in youth service groups of the regional churches. The International EC Association “World’s Christian Endeavour Union” currently has approx. 2 million members and is active in approx. 50 countries.

The Youth Federation’s mission is to show young people the way to Jesus Christ. As the Christian faith includes the entire individual, issues involving faith and the meaning of life, practical problems and communal experiences, sports, entertainment and a commitment to Christian social welfare are all included in the Federation’s programme. The German EC Federation offers young people an opportunity to get involved in creative and responsible activities in line with their individual talents.

The EC Federal Centre in Kassel coordinates the German EC activities as an education and communication centre. The EC Pastoral Centre, a Christian social welfare project, is affiliated to the Federal Centre and offers a rehabilitation facility for psychologically unstable youth, environmentally challenged youth and young people with a potential drug risk. In its extensive social and missionary activities, the EC Youth Federation organises and supports projects especially in India, but also in Brazil, Micronesia and Eastern Europe. The German EC family also includes the BORN-Verlag publishing house and a meeting and education centre in Woltersdorf close to Berlin.

The German EC family is affiliated to the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland, aej), the Protestant Gnadau Community Service Agency (Evangelischer Gnadauer Gemeinschaftsverband), and, as a specialist service organisation, it is affiliated to the Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland, EKD).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

The German Youth Federation for Christian Endeavour is organised in 17 Länder associations. Contact details are available at www.ec-jugend.de.
The German Scouting Association (DPV) was founded in 1970 by an amalgamation of several scouting federations.

As a non-denominational, non-partisan youth organisation, it is a community, in which various scouting federations work as independent youth organisations. The Federal structure of the DPV association makes it possible that various forms of youth work live and work with each other, and this diversity is fruitful thanks to the lively exchange between them.

Their common basis is the scouting principle of education, which accompanies young people on their way to self-determination and simultaneously promotes their sense of community life. This fundamental objective is implemented through a method, which focuses on active experiences. In line with the principles of “learning-by-doing”, the youth work done by scouts takes place in small transparent groups (packs, patrols, tribes), who are characterised by their nature as self-educating communities. The important educational methods applied are encouragement to assume responsibility and teaching value-oriented attitudes.

DPV’s federations and communities recognize the one promise and law/the rules of international scouting as the basis for their activities.
The German Red Cross Youth (JRK), founded 1925, is the independent youth association of the German Red Cross (Deutsches Rotes Kreuz) and has more than 110,000 members. Children and young people aged 6 to 27 are involved in more than 5,500 local JRK groups for social justice, health and the environment, for peace and international understanding. The main goal of JRK's activities is to help others. In accordance with its guidelines, the German Red Cross Youth is guided by the 7 principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

JRK trains children and young people in first aid and lifeguarding and organises medical services and mediator programmes at schools. It also focuses on meetings of Youth Red Cross members on an international level and aid projects for children and young people in crisis regions, which take into account the image of JRK as a member of a worldwide organisation.

With regular campaigns, numerous publications, teaching aids, lesson material and its own websites, JRK spreads the Red Cross ideals. The target group is, in particular, its own members, secondary school students and children and young people as potential new members as well as parents, teachers and the mass public.

JRK regards itself as an advocate for children and young people and particularly speaks out for young people in trouble. In this sense, it communicates topics that are relevant to children and young people and are targeted to problematic issues, e.g. by campaigns in the field of child soldiers, the willingness to commit violence, poverty of children in Germany, fear of the future (2007–2009: “Your Strengths. Your Future. Without Pressure!”)

Every year, at the start of the school year, Red Cross Youth develops detailed lesson material on various topics that are connected to the Red Cross principles. Topics such as “Minimum Standard Humanity - Basics of Humanitarian Human Rights”. The material is sent to more than 15,000 schools across Germany and is thus an important part of JRK's educational work.

Furthermore, JRK represents the ideals of the worldwide Red Cross movement in the National Coalition for the Implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany (Deutsche Bundesjugendring). Its memberships in the West European Red Cross Youth Network, the European Co-operation Meeting, the Youth Commission International Federation of Red Cross and the German-speaking DACHL network serve to further develop joint goals and to strengthen the interests of young people.

The German Red Cross Youth is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
The German Red Cross Youth is represented by more than 19 Länder associations nationwide. Contact addresses can be accessed on www.jrk.de.
DGB-Jugend

Trade Union Youth in the Federation of German Trade Unions

c/o DGB Bundesvorstand Bereich Jugend
Henriette-Herz-Platz 2; D-10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 24060-371; Fax: +49 30 24060-409
E-Mail: jugend.bvv@dgb.de; Internet: www.dgb-jugend.de

The Trade Union Youth in the German Trade Union Confederation, which was founded in 1948, is an independent youth association and also part of the German Trade Union Confederation. It is an umbrella organisation and federally organised into Länder districts and regions. Member organisations of the Trade Union Youth in the German Trade Union Confederation are the youth organisations of the currently 8 Trade Union Youth in the trade unions affiliated to the German Trade Union Confederation. Youths and young adults as trainees, workers, employees, officials, pupils, students, those performing their military and alternative non-military services and the unemployed are represented in the Trade Union Youth in the German Trade Union Confederation.

Trade Union Youth Work is the interest group for, with and by young people and young adults. Its task is to support development and identity processes of young people by a varied range of activities and thus stimulate them to represent their interests and co-operate in trade unions and society. This applies to devising both the working and training conditions and all factors impacting on living conditions.

The original field of action of trade union youth work is the company. There, the respective youth organisations of the affiliated trade unions represent the individual interests of young workers and trainees at the workplace, particularly in matters of payment and training and working conditions, as well as the resulting collective interests of workers and their organisations. In addition, trade union and socio-political youth work takes place at numerous locations (e.g. in vocational training schools, general education schools, institutes of higher education, non-company training centres and in the freely accessible youth education centres of the Trade Union Youth in the German Trade Union Confederation and its affiliated trade unions.

The programmes – from youth education seminars and project work, the support of pupil interest groups, youth trips and language courses through to youth meetings/youth cafés – are targeted at members, potential members and young people who want to get socio-politically involved.

The Trade Union Youth in the German Trade Union Confederation campaigns for the improvement of living and working conditions, particularly for young people and for the democratisation in society, academics and state. It sees the prerequisite for this in overcoming the discrimination of women and any racist disadvantaging. Further goals of the content-based work are also the ecological conversion of society, international solidarity and the use of peace and disarmament.

The Trade Union Youth is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

AFFILIATED TRADE UNIONS

IG Bauen-Agrar-Umwelt
Olof-Palme-Str. 19, D–60439 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 95737–0, Fax +49 69 95737–459,
Jugend@igbau.de, www.igbau.de

IG Bergbau, Chemie, Energie
Königsworther Platz 6, D–30167 Hannover,
Tel. +49 511 7631–0, Fax +49 511 7000891,
presse@igbce.de, www.igbce.de

Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft
Hauptvorstand,
Reifenberger Str. 21, D–60489 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 78973–0, Fax +49 69 78973–202,
info@gew.de, www.gew.de

IG Metall
Wilhelm-Leuschner-Str. 79,
D–60329 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 6693–0, Fax +49 69 6693–2843,
ju@igmetall.de, www.igmetall.de

Gewerkschaft Nahrung-Genuss-Gaststätten
Haubachstr. 76, D–22765 Hamburg,
Tel. +49 40 38013–0, Fax +49 40 3892637,
hauptverwaltung@negg.net, www.ngg.net

Junge Gruppe der Gewerkschaft der Polizei
Stromstr. 4, D–10557 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 399921–0, Fax +49 30 399921–200,
jungegruppe@gdp-online.de,
www.gdp-junge-gruppe.de

Transnet Gewerkschaft GdED
Weilburger Str. 24, D–60326 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 7536–0, Fax +49 69 7536–260,
jugend@GdED.de, www.transnet.gded.de

ver.di – Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft e.V.
Paula-Thiede-Ufer 10, D–10179 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 6956–0, Fax +49 30 6956–3141,
info@verdi.de, www.verdi.de
Young Catholics’ Sports Association

Carl-Mosterts-Platz 1, D–40477 Düsseldorf
Tel.: +49 211 94836–0, –18; Fax: +49 221 94836–36
E-Mail: info@djk-sportjugend.de; Internet: www.djk-sportjugend.de

The Young Catholics’ Sports Association (DJK) was founded in 1920 as the sports campaign of Catholic youth. It was outlawed in 1935 by the ruling National Socialists and newly established as an independent sports organisation in 1947. The DJK Young Catholics’ Sports Association is a youth organisation of the German Young Power Sports Organisation (DJK Sportverband Deutsche Jugendkraft), the Catholic Federal organisation for competitive and mass sports. It is affiliated to the Federation of German Catholic Youth (Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend).

The objective of the DJK Young Catholics’ Sports Association is to offer appropriate mass, recreational and competitive sports in its communities and to support the development of the full personality in the spirit of the gospel of Jesus Christ. DJK Young Catholics’ Sports Association represents the interests of its young members regarding the concerns and ideas of sports in the Church and society and has 240,000 members up to the age of 26. In total, the association currently has 540,000 members.

DJK Young Catholics’ Sports Association has international contacts to organisations such as FICEP (International Catholic Sports Association), participates in the meetings of its Youth Commission and is involved in the FICEP youth camp, which is organised annually in a different member country.

DIOCESAN / LÄNDER AND COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

The Young Catholics’ Sports Association is structured in diocesan / Länder and county associations. Contact addresses are available at www.djk-sportjugend.de.
djo – Deutsche Jugend in Europa Bundesverband e.V.

*djo – German Youth in Europe*

Kuglerstr. 5; D–10439 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 446778–0; Fax: +49 30 446778–11
E-Mail: info@djo.de; Internet: www.djo.de

Founded 1951 by the name German Youth of the East, the djo – German Youth in Europe, is a non-profit, non-partisan and non-denominational youth organisation that is active in the field of cultural and political youth work. djo is primarily involved in the integration of young repatriates of German origin in Germany. It offers them information and guidance and promotes the establishment of contacts and the cultural exchange between locals and repatriates of German origin. By the international exchange, a “cultural bridge” is built between Germany and the regions, from which the repatriates of German origin come. Furthermore, djo supports the self-organisation of young repatriates of German origin. The programmes range from leisure activities and seminars or training of multipliers to open or continuous group work.

djo also regards young immigrants, who do not settle in the Federal Republic of Germany as repatriates of German origin, as the target group of its youth work. Therefore it also supports them in the integration in the society of the Federal Republic of Germany.

djo regards the integration of immigrants as a mutual process and campaigns for better political conditions for the integration of children and young people of immigrant families who are born or raised here. It demands legal equality in the sense of a preferential application of child and youth services legislation, an improved programme of linguistic, school and professional support and the conscious promotion of the cultural activities of migrants and migrant associations.

One of djo’s particular focuses is cultural work: it should offer scope for creative activities and guidance in the training of developing your own cultural identity, contribute to the preservation of cultural diversity in a Europe of regions and build bridges between “locals” and “foreigners” in order to combat xenophobia and racism. The offers range from dance and culture festivals to (international) youth meetings and children and youth leisure activities and to seminars for group leaders and the exchange of experts in cultural work in Eastern and Western Europe.

The Trade Union Youth is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

**MEMBERS**

**LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS**
The djo – Deutsche Jugend in Europa e.V. has state associations in almost all German states (excluding Bremen, Saarland, Saxony and Thuringia). Contact addresses are available at www.djo.de.

**GROUPS WITH NATIONWIDE ACTIVITIES**

**Assyrischer Jugendverband Mitteleuropa e.V.**
Grigo Simsek,
John-F.-Kennedy Str. 29, D–34128 Kassel,
Tel. +49 179 5151422,
mail@ajm-online.com, www.ajm-online.com

**Deutsche Banater Jugend – Deutsche Banater Jugend- und Trachtengruppen**
Theresia Teichert,
Hattenhofer Str. 4/1, D–73066 Uhingen,
Tel. +49 71621 37867,
theresia.teichert@arcor.de,
www.banater-schwaben.de

**Deutschbaltischer Jugend- und Studentenring e.V.**
Anna von Krshwoblozki,
Essener Str. 15, D–10555 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 39747575,
anna@dbjustr.de, www.dbjustr.de
Jugendverband Integration
Ilia Morgunov,
Pfeilstr. 1A, D–52066 Aachen,
Tel. +49 241 4353186,
ilia.morgunov@gmail.com

Verband der russischsprachigen Jugend in Deutschland – JunOst e.V.
Maria Klimovskikh,
Dachauer Str. 25 / App. 515, D–80335 München,
vrjd_junost@yahoo.de, www.vrjd-junost.de

Komciwan – Vereinigung der Jugendverbände aus Kurdistan e.V.
Hetav Tek,
Rheinstr. 39, D–42117 Wuppertal,
Tel. +49 2203 935172,
hetavtek@yahoo.de

Oberschlesische Jugend
Artur Pancyk,
Max-Planck-Str. 5, D–33334 Gütersloh

Bundesgruppe Pommern
Christian Gradt,
Arnsbergstr. 3C, D–97422 Schweinfurt,
Tel. +49 9721 4758168, Fax +49 9721 4758169,
pommern@djo.de, www.djo.de/pommern

Siebenbürgisch-Sächsische Jugend in Deutschland (SDJ)
Rainer Lehni,
Feldblumenweg 12, D–50769 Köln,
Tel. +49 221 45356882,
RainerLehni@web.de,
www.siebenbuerger.de/sjd

Sudetendeutsche Jugend
Hochstr. 8, D–81669 München,
Tel. +49 89 48000362, Fax +49 89 48000344,
hannen@sudeten.de, www.sdj-online.de
European Scouts of St George

Bergstr. 5; D-56754 Dünfus
Tel.: +49 2672 9109-46; Fax: +49 2672 9109-47
E-Mail: bundesamt@georgspfadfinder.de; Internet: www.georgspfadfinder.de

The European Scouts of St George (EPG) were founded in 1990 as an expression of the endeavour to preserve St George scouting according to the principles of its founder, Lord Robert Baden Powell, in the EPG organisation. The scouting law and promise are at the centre of its youth work, which is orientated to the needs of children, young persons and young adults.

Outwardly, this is documented in camping and excursion training, and inwardly it is expressed by teaching the contents of the philosophy embodied in St George scouting. “Learning by doing” is one of the basic principles of scouting. Socially-minded behaviour, physical fitness, living in and with nature, training personal skills in line with each individual’s abilities - these are some cornerstones of the outward expressions of scouting.

The scouting law, which has survived for a hundred years, includes honour, loyalty, faith, helpfulness, friendship and brotherliness across borders, courtesy and chivalry, respect for God’s creation, voluntarism in combination with obedience and service without self-interest, a simple, happy life and purity.

The youngest members between 5 and 7 are the Beavers. Cubs are 7 to 11 years old and Young Scouts are aged between 11 and 14 years. Scouts must be 14 to 17 years old. Rovers are young adults between 17 and 20 years of age. Leaders are 18 years old, and members are part of a Guild from the age of 20. On the local level, there are groups of colonies/packs/patrols and troops for the various age groups. These groups form districts and the national association. Currently, there is an additional model project for three-to-five-year-olds, or “mice”.

EPG regards itself as the interest group for children, young persons and young adults, supports the democratic rule of law of the Federal Republic of Germany, is in favour of the integration of the free peoples of Europe, is not affiliated to any political party or interest group and maintains its nonpartisan neutrality. EPG wants to contribute to a positive development of the mental, physical and social abilities of young people and promotes the development of their personalities so that the individual can work as a responsible citizen for the welfare of local, national and international communities.
The European Youth Parliament (EYP) is an international non-partisan organisation, which was founded in France in 1987 in the aim of bringing young people from all over Europe together in a non-partisan forum so that they may experience democracy, Europe, intercultural co-operation and international understanding. Beyond the politics of their national states and party affiliations, young people are enabled to develop their own proposals and visions for a future Europe and to discuss them controversially in a parliamentary debate. Until 2007, the number of participating European states could be extended to 32. More than 50,000 young people have so far participated in international and national EYP sessions. EYP was awarded the “Theodor Heuss Medal” for its European commitment.

The European Youth Parliament in Germany is the German EYP society. It was established in 1990 and wants to promote EYP values on the national level. The association organises the international sessions held in Germany, the National Selection process and up to five European Forums per year, where the aims of the European Youth Parliament are pursued on the regional level.

The National Selection is a competition in schools, where the annual student delegations are determined to represent Germany at the next international sessions. The selection criteria are factual and linguistic competence and the ability to develop new ideas and visionary approaches to solving a nationally specified topic. Furthermore, issues of our political future are also discussed in smaller groups in the context of this competition.

The objective of the European Forums is to promote cross-border contacts between young people from Germany and its neighbouring countries and to motivate students to participate in EYP’s National Selection. In events of one to four days, the students experience an intensive exchange of ideas, which goes beyond their national borders, they train their team working skills and debating culture. Participation is open to all young people in the target age group – mostly grades 10 and 11 – in the targeted Länder and their respective neighbouring countries.

Since 2004, the European Youth Parliament in Germany has also supported the further development of the European Youth Parliament in Belarus.
Evangelische Brüder-Unität – Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine

Unity of the Brethren – Bohemian/Herrnhut Brethren

Zittauer Str. 20; D-02747 Herrnhut
Tel.: +49 35873 487-0; Fax: +49 35873 487-99
E-Mail: info@ebu.de; Internet: www.ebu.de, www.ebu-jugend.de

The Unity of the Brethren – Bohemian/Herrnhut Brethren was founded in Bohemia and Moravia in 1457 as a community of Christians. They had to emigrate at the time of the counterrevolution. After 1722, Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf gave the persecuted brethren a new home in Saxony. They built the Unity of the Brethren – Bohemian/Herrnhut Brethren (Renewed Unity of the Brethren (Erneuerte-Brüder-Unität).

The Unity of the Brethren – Bohemian/Herrnhut Brethren (EBU) do not differ in their teachings from other Protestant churches. Their special characteristic is their everyday piety centering on Jesus Christ, a wide variety of liturgical forms and their rich musical and community life.

Their mission and objective is to preach the gospel. The social welfare services of their community with facilities for senior citizens and persons with disabilities play a major role. EBU also operates four schools or school facilities in Germany and seven kindergartens. The European EBU province includes 36 parishes and societies in Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. World wide, the Unity has 825,000 members, 80% of whom live in Africa, Central and South America. The partnership of the independent churches of the World Unity of Brethren (Weltweite Brüder-Unität), which developed during their missionary work, is a fundamental element of their church life.

Child and youth work takes place against this background. In Germany, EBU offers a variety of programmes for children, young people and young adults during holiday periods and Church holidays: retreats, courses, workshops and festivals. The worldwide relations have led to active youth partnerships with mutual visits to Estonia, the Netherlands, South Africa, the Czech Republic and Ireland.

EBU and its institutions/facilities can be found at www.ebu.de.
Association of Young Naturists

c/o Ute Heumann
Zwingerstr. 14, D-63477 Maintal
Tel.: +49 6109 68228; Fax: +49 6109 68229
E-Mail: geschaeftsstelle@fkk-jugend.de; Internet: www.fkk-jugend.de

The Association of Young Naturists was founded in 1953 and is the youth organisation of the German Association of Naturists (DFK) – the Association for Family and Mass Sports and Naturism.

It is an autonomous, non-profit, non-partisan and non-denominational organisation. Its aims are a free and natural way of life, the respect of individual rights and free choice in matters of conscience.

Its youth activities address are physically, mentally and psychologically healthy and balanced individuals. Through the outdoor activities, sports and games of unclothed individuals, the Association wants to achieve healthy sexual behaviour and to overcome gender-specific roles and behaviour.

Young individuals up to 27 years of age participate in mixed youth groups in the activities of the Association of Young Naturists. They are involved in events on the level of their local associations, the Länder associations and national events as well as international meetings, which are primarily organised by the Young Naturists movement. The Association of Young Naturists pays special attention to the training and further education or youth, training and youth group leaders.

The Association of Young Naturists is registered with the German Sports Youth in the German Olympic Sports Federation (Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund) as a special-interest association, it is affiliated to the German Youth Hostel Association – Central Association for Youth Hiking and Youth Hostels (Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk, Hauptverband für Jugendwandern und Jugendherbergen) and the Union of Youth Leagues (Ring junger Bünde).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

With its Länder associations, the Association of Young Naturists is represented throughout the Federal Republic. Contact details are available at www.fkk-jugend.de.
Frischluft e.V.

Fresh Air Organisation

Straßburger Str. 43 A; D–10405 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 44042205; Fax: +49 30 44042810
E-Mail: post@frischluft-ev.de; Internet: www.frischluft-ev.de

The Christian Democratic Fresh Air Organisation for Children and Youth was founded in 1989. It is an element of the Christian Democratic movement in pre-political environments, it wants to address young people, to support and to participate in the design of extracurricular youth work in Germany.

The Fresh Air Organisation wants to offer an open format of children and youth work. It wants to support young people in realising themselves, to encourage them to participate in our democratic state and our pluralist society, and to guide them to a responsible life in freedom. Pursuant to the philosophy of participation, children and young people determine their own activities. This objective is realised through seminars, practice-oriented programmes in environmental protection, culture, natural science or technical education, a commitment to social services for other individuals, recreational games and athletic activities, national and international youth work, study tours as well as publications and media programmes. Youth work multipliers are also specifically targeted.

There are autonomous Länder associations in almost all Federal states.

LÄNDER AND COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

Contact addresses of Länder and county associations are available at www.frischluft-ev.de.
Gemeindejugendwerk des Bundes Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden in Deutschland K. d. ö. R.

German Baptist Youth Department of the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany

Julius-Köbner-Str. 4; D-14641 Wustermark
Tel.: +49 33234 74–118; Fax: +49 33234 74–121
E-Mail: gjw@baptisten.org; Internet: www.gjw.de

GJW, the Youth Department of the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany, and its education centre, the Youth Seminary, are responsible for the work with children, teenagers and young people within the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany. More than 5,000 volunteers take care of more than 30,000 children and young people in approx. 2,100 groups. There is the GJW head office in Wustermark and 13 regional GJWs throughout Germany.

The objective of the organisation is to provide young people with a role model for shaping their own life on the basis of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to challenge them into becoming committed Christians. GJW wants the message of the Bible to be a personal experience for everybody and to show that each local community is able to offer space to young people.

With this aim in mind, GJW organises training courses for voluntary workers to develop their skills required in their anthropocentric, Christian and action-oriented work with children and young people. This includes basic training courses, but also courses on special issues such as “Developmental Youth Work” or “Investigation of Judaism and Islam”. GJW puts a special emphasis on its co-operation with community managers. Furthermore, GJW offers holiday projects and large events for children and young people so that they may experience the Gospel. The contact details of the 13 regional GJWs are available at www.gjw.de.
integ-Jugend im Sozialverband Deutschland e. V.

*integ-Youth in the Social Association of Germany*

Stralauer Str. 63; D-10179 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 726222–0; Fax: +49 30 726222–311
E-Mail: integ@sovd.de; Internet: www.integ-jugend.de

integ-Youth in the Social Association of Germany – formerly: INTEG- integ-Youth in the Reichsbund Social Association (INTEG-Jugend im Sozialverband Reichsbund) – is the autonomous youth wing providing youth services in the Social Association of Germany and was founded in 1971.

integ-Youth is an organisation of disabled and able-bodied young people to work for the INTEGRation, equal opportunities and a self-determined life of persons with disabilities. Its objective is to realise partnership and coexistence as well as equal participation of disabled and able-bodied individuals in a society based on solidarity.

Starting from the principles in its youth policy programme, integ-Youth defends the social, societal and cultural concerns or young persons with disabilities and without disabilities. integ-Youth wants to guide young individuals to social responsibility and social commitment and to encourage them to participate in political opinion making; it seeks a co-operation with other youth organisations and promotes the collaboration with foreign young people as well as international youth meetings.

Its activities include information on social policy and advocacy vis-à-vis legislators, public authorities, agencies and the general public – especially on issues concerning the integration of persons with disabilities in school, employment and society as well as their medical rehabilitation. integ-Youth has a special focus on advocacy for an environment and a society, which is adapted to individuals with disabilities; integ-Youth therefore demands the removal of constructional barriers and the further development of an urban public transport system, which is adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities, for example.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

integ-Youth is represented in all 16 Federal states with its Länder associations. Contact addresses are available through the INTEG-Youth National Office.
Johanniter-Jugend in der Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.

St John Young Ambulance

Lützowstr. 94; D–10785 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 26997–160; Fax: +49 30 26997–169
E-Mail: info@johanniter-jugend.de; Internet: www.johanniter-jugend.de

The St John Young Ambulance (JJ) was founded in 1978 and is the youth organisation of St John Ambulance (Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe, JUH). It is organised on the Federal level and a recognized provider of non-public youth services. It is non-partisan and not affiliated to any organisation.

Pursuant to its Youth Charter, JJ’s structures are independent in their activities. The basis of JJ’s work is its pledge to the spiritual foundations of the Christian faith and Christian social welfare (Diakonie). In its activities, it aims at an education for Christian charity towards other individuals – irrespective of their denomination, race or nationality.

Through their training and participation in the tasks of JUH, JJ’s members are given an opportunity to practice their social commitment and thus make a contribution to the resolution of social problems.

In its group sessions, trips, camps, international meetings, seminars and training courses etc., JJ also honours its professional responsibility: promoting the individual development of young persons and educating them to respect other people, enabling them to take responsibility in society on the basis of our free democratic order, encouraging and guiding them to serve their neighbours by integrating persons with disabilities and being involved in ambulance services, for example.

In the groups, girls and boys learn to jointly plan their activities, to carry them out independently and to fulfil the duties they accept in their community. By participating in the decision-making and living together in a group, they gain experience in resolving differences of opinion in a spirit of fairness and democracy.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

St John Young Ambulance has Länder associations in all Federal states, whose addresses are available at the National Office.
The Youth of the German Life Saving Society (DLRG) have been active nationwide since 1963. Together with their parent society, they are the largest life saving organisation worldwide. With a membership of 350,000, DLRG Youth constitutes one of the largest youth associations in Germany. The organisation is organised by its young members who have established ‘youth statutes’ at the local, district, Länder and Federal levels, elect their own representative bodies and take their own decisions on the use of their financial resources.

In their national and international work for their organisation and for society, they subscribe to the principles of democracy, humanity, tolerance and plurality; they have an intercultural approach and support holistic ideas. DLRG Youth shares the idea of physical and mental inviolability of all human beings and fight against exclusion, discrimination and intolerance. The young people work towards the ideal that everybody should be able to fully and freely develop their potential, and therefore they want to help create a conducive societal environment. Furthermore, young people and young adults are motivated to take on voluntary work, for which they receive special training. They also seek to improve the conditions for voluntary involvement, they try to increase the social recognition of such involvement and wish to create the conditions for women and men, girls and boys so that they enjoy equal rights in the work they do. DLRG Youth also makes an effort to promote and include socially and ethnically disadvantaged children, young people and young adults.

In order to achieve these objectives, DLRG Youth promotes all child and youth-specific activities to prevent people ‘from going under’. Their work is designed to realise principles and formats, which are in line with the interests, needs and the attitudes to life displayed by children, young people and young adults. They thus provide the conditions for the self-government of their own leisure time activities.

The younger members already plan their free time autonomously and take on responsible tasks at an early age. The older ones shape the organisation. They do not only develop political education and sports services, which include the training of youth group leaders, but also organise trainings for volunteers (e.g. speech classes or organisational management). They offer holiday projects, excursions and camps; they also support international meetings.

Moreover, regional meetings are organised with up to 2,000 children and young people participating. There are national competitions. But the young people also do their training together with children, teach them to swim, dive and boat and – of course – instruct them in life-saving and resuscitation techniques.

The Youth of the German Life Saving Society is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (► Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER OFFICES

The Youth of DLRG have 19 Länder organisations which provide for nationwide representation. Contact details are available at www.dlrg-jugend.de.
Jugend des Deutschen Alpenvereins

Youth of the German Alpine Association

Von-Kahr-Str. 2-4; D-80997 München
Tel.: +49 89 14003–77; Fax: +49 89 14003–29
E-Mail: jdav@alpenverein.de; Internet: www.jdav.de

JDAV, the Youth of the German Alpine Association, is an independent organisation set up in 1919 offering services for young people which are to balance and complement the traditional forms of education at home, in school, at university and at work. They want to transport the wishes and needs of the youth into the political arena and help shape our society. They want to offer children and young people more profound leisure time activities beyond the options for quick consumption; they want to provide a socially inclusive space conducive to comprehensive learning to promote the young persons’ personality development and to form the character of children and young people.

JDAV wants young people to develop a self-confident and mature personality so that they can act responsibly and consider the environmental impact of their activities. This includes the development of social skills and commitment and the training of responsible mountaineering. JDAV’s programmes and projects are based on the principle of considering that boys and girls live in different circumstances, of finding ways to reduce disadvantages and of promoting equality between girls and boys.

There are groups for different age brackets in JDAV. JDAV is active in more than 360 sections of the German Alpine Association and is represented in the respective Länder associations.

The Youth of the German Alpine Association is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (► Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

JDAV is represented nationwide through its Länder associations. Contact details are available at www.jdav.de.
Jugend im Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V.

Young Friends of the Earth – BUNDjugend

Am Köllnischen Park 1A; D-10179 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 27586–50; Fax: +49 30 27586–55
E-Mail: bundjugend@bund.net; Internet: www.bundjugend.de

Young Friends of the Earth (BUNDjugend) was established in 1984 and is an independent youth organisation of BUND, the German Friends of the Earth organisation. With a membership of 260,000, BUND is Germany’s largest environmental organisation. BUNDjugend itself has 40,000 members below the age of 26. It is a youth organisation which discusses alternatives and fights for their implementation; it wants to initiate thought processes with its demands and to change paradigms. BUNDjugend is active throughout Germany and is linked to young people all over the world through the “Young Friends of the Earth” network.

BUNDjugend’s aim is to save the earth. Its members organise campaigns, rallies and projects to protect the environment. They fight against genetically modified organisms in our food and for an environment free of toxic substances. They strive for nature preservation, globalisation under fair conditions and power production exclusively from renewable energies. The young people believe that they can make a difference with their commitment and involvement and thus shape a positive future.

BUNDjugend members take responsibility and help formulate issues of current relevance which can then be discussed by young people in local and national working groups. Such issues would include globalisation, consumption, environmental education, renewable energies etc. These working groups also implement projects and activities and address politicians not least through their press releases. Furthermore, the organisation runs courses and workshops on specific subjects and methods.

BUNDjugend is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring) and Youth Environment Europe.

LÄNDER OFFICES
BUNDjugend has offices in all Länder of Germany. Contact details are available at www.bundjugend.de.
Youth Organisation of the German Federation of Civil Servants

Friedrichstr. 169/170; D-10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 408157–51; Fax: +49 30 408157–99
E-Mail: info@dbbj.de; Internet: www.dbbj.de

The Youth Organisation of the German Federation of Civil Servants (dbb-Jugend) is an association of youth labour unions. Around 150,000 young civil servants and employees in public and privatised service companies are organised in its 17 unions and 16 Länder associations. The members are civil servants and employees between 16 and 27 years of age.

The Youth Organisation of the German Federation of Civil Servants is a head organisation of unions of the public services, but is also open for the privatised sector. Moreover, it sees itself as socio-political force and issues statements on topics that go beyond labour union issues. It takes a stance on issues of youth and societal politics.

The Youth Organisation of the German Federation of Civil Servants is independent of any party or denomination and only answerable to its own decision-making bodies. Within the labour unions, the work of the Youth Organisation of the German Federation of Civil Servants is governed by its statutes and the internal rules of procedure in the individual committees. The Youth Organisation of the German Federation of Civil Servants is a recognised voluntary youth service provider and receives government funding.

The Youth Organisation of the German Federation of Civil Servants is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS

Its 16 Länder associations represent the dbb-Jugend across Germany.

YOUTH LABOUR UNIONS

Jugend der Deutschen Verwaltungsgewerkschaft (DVG-Jugend)
Jugend der Gewerkschaft der Sozialversicherung (GdS-Jugend)
Die jungen Gewerksschüler der DPVKOM (JG)
Jugend der Deutschen Steuergewerkschaft (DStG-Jugend)
Jugend im Bundesgrenzschutz-Verband (bgs-Jugend)
Jugend der Verkehrsverwaltung (GDBA-Jugend)
Jugend der Gewerkschaft Deutscher Lokomotivführer (GDL-Jugend)
Jugend der Gewerkschaft der Beamten und Arbeitnehmer des Kommunal- und Landesdienstes (KOMBA-Jugend)
Junge Polizei in der Deutschen Polizeigewerkschaft im Deutschen Beamtenbund (DPolG-Jugend)

Jugend im Bund der Deutschen Zollbeamten (BDZ-Jugend)
Deutsche Justiz-Jugend (DJJ)
Jugend im Bund Deutscher Forstleute (BDF-Jugend)
Jugend im Bund der Technischen Beamten (BTB-Jugend)
Verband der Beamten der Bundesbankjugend (VdB)

dbb-Jugend will provide you with the youth labour unions’ addresses and contact persons as well as Länder youth associations upon request.
Jugendnetzwerk Lambda e. V.

Youth Network “Lambda” – Young Lesbians and Gays

Windthorststr. 43 A; D-99096 Erfurt
Tel.: +49 361 6448754; Fax: +49 361 6448752
E-Mail: info@lambda-online.de; Internet: www.lambda-online.de

The Youth Network “Lambda” – Young Lesbians and Gays was established in 1990 and is an independent youth association addressing the needs of young gays and lesbians in Germany between 14 and 26 years of age. Lambda provides advice and assistance and wants to help young lesbians and gays with their coming out. It offers many different forms of advice and assistance. All young people should have equal opportunities irrespective of their sexual orientation.

Therefore, Lambda makes efforts to inform parents and young people, teachers and politicians so that they support young lesbians and gays. Lambda represents the interests of young lesbians and gays vis-à-vis the government and society, for example as a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

Lambda establishes contacts between young lesbians and gays so that they may meet every week and do something together. Lambda is in touch with the major youth organisations in Germany and offers consultancy and support at large events, for example. Lambda also co-operates with counselling and social facilities, youth organisations, other associations for gays and lesbians, political parties and other institutions showing an interest in the needs of young lesbians and gays in the aim of achieving their common objectives.

Another field of activity is the training programme for youth group leaders and study sessions on PR and other topics. In co-operation with partner organisations from other European countries, Lambda organises holiday projects and youth exchange programmes, e.g. with Israel and Sweden. There is the Lambda Summer Camp. Lambda makes an appearance at Christopher Street Day with a rolling disco.

Lambda receives funding from the Federal government and several Land governments.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

Contact details of the Länder associations are available at www.lambda-online.de.
Youth Organisations of the Christian Life Community

Sterngasse 3; D-86150 Augsburg
Tel.: +49 821 3199–804; Fax: +49 821 3199–805
E-Mail: mail@j-gcl.org; Internet: www.j-gcl.org

The Youth organisations of the Christian Life Community (J-GCL) are a Christian association of female secondary school students (GCL – girls and women) and Christian male secondary school students (GCL – boys and men). They mainly campaign for the concerns and interests of pupils aged between 10 and 20. J-GCL groups are mainly found at grammar schools, technical secondary schools and youth houses in 13 German dioceses, mainly in Southern Germany. But they are also connected worldwide and have ties to the Jesuit order and the CLC and can look back on a long history.

The profile of J-GCL is, on the one hand, characterised by the so-called “principles” that are practiced and conveyed (belief, community, individuality, friendship, responsibility, democracy, political involvement, social competence); on the other hand, by the three “profile elements” or focal topics of school/education, Ignatian spirituality and a dual association/(gender) justice.

The basis of J-GCL’s youth organisation activities are its group activities. Here, children and youths experience communities run by group leaders and are given support in the search for identity. Among the younger children, this takes place e. g. in the form of games or theme group hours and, for the older children, by the study of varied social, religious and political topics – inspired by the Ignatian spirituality “Perceiving, differentiating, deciding” and “searching and finding God in all things”.

In group work, in leadership positions and as commission members, young persons learn in association structures, by voting and at conferences, to represent their own interests, make decisions and take responsibility. Thus, in the sense of holistic education, J-GCL wants to promote a democratic way of thinking, to strengthen active political involvement and to develop educational and social skills, which are also in demand in many areas outside of youth work.

DIOCESES
The dioceses of the J-GCL are listed on its homepage: www.j-gcl.org.
The United Methodist Church Youth Department (EmK) was developed in 1968 as part of the Methodist movement in Germany. It is the union of all groups and activities in the sector of church youth work of the United Methodist Church. Its target are children and young people in and out of the Methodist church.

Its tasks range from preaching the gospel and pastoral care to education and leisure programmes, socio-political, welfare and social activities to musical and cultural programmes. Children and young people are given the freedom to develop and practice Christian responsibility. This occurs as part of regional, national and international leisure activities and meetings, as well as events for children, youth meetings, seminars and social welfare projects.

As part of a worldwide church structure, the international dimension is highly developed in many activities. In addition to short-term programmes, the Children and Youth Department also offers longer exchange programmes (a year and more) in the social welfare sector.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEPARTMENT
The three children and youth departments of the United Methodist Church (North, East and South) are available at www.emk-jugend.de.
The Young European Federalists (JEF) – founded in 1949 by members of the resistance – are a European non-partisan political youth organisation. For them, federalism does not simply mean the decentralisation of state power; it is also the principle governing the life and structure of society. The association advocates a democratic, social, peaceful and ecological Europe. It demands the completion of the European Union and promotes the participation of young people in European events by organising meetings of young people in Europe as well as seminars, discussions and trips on European issues.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

The Young European Federalists are represented nationwide through their Länder associations. Contact addresses are available at www.jef.de.
Juvente – Youth Organisation of the Good Templars in Germany

Adenauerallee 45; D-22097 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 245880; Fax: +49 40 241430
E-Mail: info@juvente.de; Internet: www.juvente.de

Juvente – Youth Organisation of the Good Templar in Germany – is the youth organisation of the Good Templar in Germany and includes a community of young people between 12 and 27 years of age who have decided to go for an alcohol- and drug-free lifestyle.

Juvente seeks to promote free personality development and encourages young people to understand and take responsibility for themselves, their fellow human beings and their environment. The organisation’s purpose is to inform young people about the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse and develop preventive measures.

Problems of addiction must be seen in the wider context of social, economic and political problems. Therefore, Juvente tries to counteract adverse developments with social and political work also on the international level. The organisation helps young alcohol abusers, potential alcohol abusers and children and young people coming from families with a substance abuse history.

Juvente builds not only on regular meetings of youth groups in different German cities but also on study sessions, holiday projects and camps, whose activities are designed to shun alcohol and prevent drug abuse. At the same time, general topics like alcohol policies and international co-operation are discussed.

The youth temperance organisation is a member in the European umbrella organisation “ACTIVE - Sobriety, Friendship, Peace”.

Juvente – Jugendabteilung der Guttempler in Deutschland

Juvente – Youth Organisation of the Good Templars in Germany


**Katholische Junge Gemeinde**

*Catholic Young Congregation*

Carl-Mosterts-Platz 1, D–40477 Düsseldorf  
Tel.: +49 211 984614–0; Fax: +49 211 984614–29  
E-Mail: bundesstelle@kjg.de; Internet: www.kjg.org

The Catholic Young Congregation (KJG) was founded in 1969 as a union of the Catholic female youth congregations and the Catholic congregation of young men. The KJG is a Christian and political child and youth organisation and has approximately 80,000 members in 2,000 parishes.

It helps young people in the search for feasible support in their lives and promotes their desire to contribute to forming a society and church with equal rights. KJG regards itself as part of the church, although a key field of activity lies in children and youth work of the parishes, which are the direct life and experience of children and young people. It creates a space, in which it is possible to study yourself and the world around you without any interference, and it offers guidance through contents and positions and religious and educational programmes. Targeted work for women and girls, as well as for men and boys, has a long tradition in KJG.

KJG’s responsibility is illustrated by its willingness to get socially involved, by its protest against any kind of injustice, by its implementation of the justified interests of young people, by its demand for the right of co-determination in school, job, economy and politics and by its endeavours to maintain peace.

**DIOCESE ASSOCIATIONS/LAND WORKING GROUP**

KJG is split into 24 diocese associations nationwide. A Land working group was formed in Bavaria. The contact addresses are available at www.kjg.org.
Since its establishment in 1957, KLJB, the Catholic Rural Youth Movement of Germany, has represented the interests of young people in rural areas, in church settings and in society at large. More than 70,000 young persons and young adults belong to KLJB. Within the democratic structures of KLJB, the young people organise their leisure-time activities in self-determination, they learn team spirit, organise decision-making processes and defend their common interests also in campaigns. These activities help young people in developing competences that will make them fit for the future and develop perspectives for rural areas.

More than 5,000 young people volunteer to organise and accompany groups, projects and KLJB bodies and take responsibility in their activities.

KLJB members consider themselves as part of the church; they wish to make a contribution to society as a whole by their dedicated course of action. On the basis of different formats and methods, they organise political lobbying, campaigns, projects and church services to preserve and protect God’s creation and to establish fair conditions for everybody in the world.

KLJB builds on forms of agriculture that are environmentally and socially friendly, international co-operation, sustainable development and gender equality.

KLJB is connected with rural youth organisations from Europe and all over the world through the network of MIJARC (International Movement for Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth). This is its space to experience other cultures and practice solidarity. International partnerships and campaigns are the platform to implement specific developmental projects.

The Academy of the Catholic Rural Youth Movement (Akademie der Katholischen Landjugend) – the KLJB education centre – and KLJB’s Federal head office are both located in Bad Honnef (www.akademie.kljb.org).

ASSOCIATIONS AT LÄNDER AND DIOCESE LEVELS

In total, KLJB has 19 diocesan associations. In Bavaria, the diocesan associations combine to form the Bavarian KLJB Land Association (www.kljb-bayern.de). Contact details are available at www.kljb.org.
Young Catholic Students

Gabelsbergerstr. 19, D–50674 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 942018–0; Fax: +49 221 942018–22
E-Mail: bundesamt@ksj.de; Internet: www.ksj.de

The Young Catholic Students (KSJ) association sees itself as a free grouping within the Catholic church. The close co-operation of the two autonomous associations, the Heliand Girls Group (Heliand-Mädchenkreis) founded in 1926, and the Student Association in the Federation for a new Germany (Schülergemeinschaft im Bund Neudeutschland) founded in 1919, is a consequence of their joint areas of activity.

Against the background of the schools’ crisis, which is partly the result of recent reforms, KSJ believes that its mission is to review the everyday reality in schools for their meaning and their compatibility with the Christian faith.

The target groups of both associations are secondary school students and especially grammar school students. KSJ’s educational objective is the responsible young adult who is capable of exploring the meaning of his/her life in a concrete situation and to define his/her own answer and thus the orientation of his/her life. KSJ wants to support these students by confronting them with Jesus Christ as an individual and as a message. KSJ’s activities take place in a structure of closed age groups (5th to 13th grade).

KSJ is affiliated to the Federation of German Catholic Youth (Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend).

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Schülergemeinschaft im Bund Neudeutschland
Gabelsberger Str. 19, D–50674 Köln,
Tel: +49 221 942081–0

Heliand-Mädchenkreis
Gabelsberger Str. 19, D–50674 Köln,
Tel: +49 221 942618–0
Kolpingjugend im Kolpingwerk Deutschland

Kolping Youth Germany

Kolpingplatz 5–11; D–50667 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 20701–169; Fax: +49 221 20701–38
E-Mail: jugend@kolping.de; Internet: www.kolpingjugend.de

Kolping Youth, which has been associated with the Kolping Society, which was created by Adolph Kolping in 1846, since 1957, is one of the biggest Catholic youth organisations in Germany, with a little less than 50,000 members under the age of 30.

Kolping Youth wants to enable children, young persons and young adults to give proof of their worth as Christians in the world and thus in their respective living situation and living form. As an association dealing with life and the working world, it offers its members and non-members counselling and support. Through its members’ activities and on the basis of Christian social teaching, it promotes the common good and participates in the constant renewal of church and society.

In 2006, Kolping Youth formulated its own image in 5 sentences that define its current work. The members of Kolping Youth live by these sentences, the example of Adolph Kolping and Christian beliefs, they promote the skills of children, young persons and young adults by training, group hours, leisure activities and major events, and they study the situation of young people in the working world and open up new perspectives. Furthermore, they see themselves as part of an international and multi-generational community.

In terms of content, Kolping Youth in the Kolping Society Germany will devote itself to the focal topics of youth and the working world in the years to come.

DIOCESE, LAND AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

In Germany, Kolping Youth is active in 27 diocese, 6 Lander and regional associations on the county and local levels. An extensive list with contact addresses is available at www.kolpingjugend.de.
Linksjugend [´solid]

Socialist Youth [´solid]

Kleine Alexanderstr. 28; D–10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 24009419; Fax: +49 30 24009326
E-Mail: sprecherinnenrat@solid-web.de; Internet: www.linksjugend-solid.de

The organisation Socialist Youth [´solid] is a socialist, anti-fascist, grassroots-democratic and feminist youth association. It pinpoints adverse social conditions and provides a platform for anti-capitalist and self-determined politics. Being a part of the emancipation movements, the youth organisation seeks co-operations with other partners of the alliance. The aim of [´solid] is to establish a close collaboration with like-minded youth organisations on the international level and, in particular, on the European level.

The organisation builds on political education, pro-active political and cultural approaches from the left and political campaigning. The youth organisation is close to the German political party DIE LINKE and represents the interests of left-wing young people in the party. It fights to give children and young people a greater say in matters of general interest, it supports the system of comprehensive schools and wishes to abolish the three traditional tracks of education, it calls for grants irrespective of the parents' situation, for the right to education, for the abolition of conscription and forced services and for an intercultural Europe, where xenophobia and racism have no place. The association intends to realise a concept called “Socialism of the 21st Century”.

The organisation Socialist Youth [´solid] provides services by young people for young people who, despite all prejudice, are open-minded when it comes to policy-making and who fight for social equality, more democracy, liberty and plurality. Above all, the organisation wants to motivate young people to take action and become politically involved.

Presently the youth organisation has 8,800 members, who are organised in 16 Länder associations.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
Contact details of the Länder associations are available at www.linksjugend-solid.de.
Malteser Jugend im Malteser-Hilfsdienst e.V.

Maltese Youth

Kalker Hauptstr. 22–24, D-51103 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 9822–241; Fax: +49 221 9822–248
E-Mail: kontakt@malteserjugend.de; Internet: www.malteserjugend.de

The Maltese Youth, founded in 1980, is a federation of groups of children, adolescents and young adults aged between about 8 and 26 years within the German Association of the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps (Malteser Hilfsdienst). It aims to put the Maltese leitmotif “Testify faith and help the needy” into practice in an appropriate way for the young people it is entrusted with, and to fill it with life. The feeling of community in the group and a Christian identity form a solid foundation for the roughly 9,000 young people that are involved in the Maltese Youth.

The work of Maltese Youth is action-based and focuses on educational work, leisure activities, Maltese-specific training, and social commitment. These areas cannot be seen separately, they complement and benefit each other. Different kind of educational methods are applied: individual work and work with partners, work in small and large groups. The work is adjusted to suit age-group specific needs, and is open to other forms of youth work, such as outreach work, if required. The Maltese Youth sees a variety of opportunities for young people in international co-operation, for example in partnerships with youth groups in Central and Eastern Europe. Young people are also afforded an opportunity to test themselves in the different fields of work of the Order of Malta and develop skills in different areas. This commitment will also open long-term perspectives to young people in addition to or as an alternative to their involvement in the youth organisation. Voluntary and honorary commitment form the basis for Maltese Youth community life; the honorary workers are supported by full-time youth officers.

The Maltese Youth is recognised nation-wide voluntary youth service provider.

DIOCESAN YOUTH DEPARTMENTS

The Maltese Youth has a structure with 28 diocese and Länder organisations in Germany. Contact information is available at www.malteserjugend.de.
MBK – Evangelisches Jugend- und Missionswerk e.V.

Young People’s Missionary and Biblical Association

Hermann-Löns-Str. 9 A; D–32105 Bad Salzuflen
Tel.: +49 5222 1805–0; Fax: +49 5222 1805–27
E-Mail: info@mbk-web.de; Internet: www.mbk-web.de

MBK – the Young People’s Missionary and Biblical Association is the successor of the Alliance of German Girls’ Bible Circles (Bund der Deutschen Mädchen-Bibel-Kreise), was founded in 1919 and provides services to young people, students, young employees and university students as well as working and single women.

MBK considers its mission as being witness to the Gospel for young people and employees and to promote their missionary and social commitment. A large number of full-time staff and volunteers are active on the national and the Länder level in missionary and social welfare services, outings and actions. MBK Mission sends staff to Japan, Hong Kong and India for mission and social welfare services. In addition to the above-mentioned activities, MBK also runs a youth education centre and publishes the “Counterpoint” (CONTRAPUNKT) youth magazine.

It is affiliated to the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland), the Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland, EKD), the Working Group of Missionary Services (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Missionarische Dienste) and Services for Protestant Women in Germany (Evangelische Frauenarbeit in Deutschland).

AFFILIATE
Evangelische Jugend- und Erwachsenenarbeit in Nordelbien MBK e.V.
Koppelsberg 5, D–24306 Plön,
Tel. +49 4522 307–156
Missionswerk Jugend für Christus Deutschland e.V.

Youth for Christ Germany

Am Klingenteich 16; D-64367 Mühltal
Tel.: +49 6151 14109-0; Fax: +49 6151 14109-20
E-Mail: info@yfc.de; Internet: www.yfc.de

Youth for Christ Germany offers Christian counselling to young people. Youth for Christ (JFC) is an autonomous youth organisation in an international partnership, and it is active in more than 100 countries with approximately 4,000 full-time staff and 30,000 volunteers. All its activities in Germany are coordinated in its own head office; the use of its funds is audited by independent auditors. Public relations and fund-raising are other elements of its activities.
The Muslim Youth Germany (MJD), founded in 1994, was the first German-speaking national organisation to address issues concerning the situation, opportunities and difficulties of Muslim youth in the German society as well as in the “Islamic Community”.

As an independent, German-speaking youth organisation, MJD’s goal is to bring together young people that chosen the Muslim faith. It tries to show them ways to live as a Muslim in Germany and be an integrated member of society. As Muslims, they can contribute to resolving public prejudice against Islam and inform about Islam as a way of life. Moreover, as representatives of a second or third generation of Muslims in Germany, they can further the dialogue between the different cultures.

Another objective of MJD is helping adolescents to find solutions to their problems, to offer them opportunities for further training in a variety of fields, and to develop and use their talents. The incorporation of ethical and religious values and ideas into everyday life is a particular challenge for adolescents, but also affords them excellent alternatives for coping and their conduct of life.

MJD has more than 300 members and about 30 regional organisations across Germany.
Naturfreundejugend Deutschlands

**German Young Nature Friends**

Haus Humboldtstein; D-53424 Remagen-Rolandseck
Tel.: +49 2228 9415-0; Fax: +49 2228 9415-22
E-Mail: info@naturfreundejugend.de; Internet: www.naturfreundejugend.de

NFJD, German Young Nature Friends, is an independent section of Naturfreunde (Nature Friends) in Germany and was set up in 1925. In their statutes and guidelines, nature friends, young and old, support democratic socialism. People take centre stage in their thinking and action; people can only live and thrive in a community, in peace and in a healthy environment, which is also available to future generations.

International understanding, social justice and solidarity as well as the call for environmentally sound and socially responsible tourism (sustainable tourism) are the underlying principles governing the organisation. There is the vision that not only individuals have to change their behaviour but capitalism needs to be overcome in the interest of people and the environment.

German Young Nature Friends build on projects and campaigns. In the sector of tourism, they draft environmentally sound ideas and concepts, e.g. quality standards for young travellers. Hiking and nature sports and activities with children and young people aim at fostering a profound exploration of environmental matters.

Environmental education is another important topic. Children and young people can gain first-hand experience of the work at research stations and become active as environmental scientists. They can become the sponsor of a brook or stream and fight for a lasting change in energy generation. The project “Environmental Detectives” is geared to children between 8 and 12. They are allowed to discover nature in their environment, thus developing an interest in and activities for environmental protection.

Another core activity is the organisation of international meetings with members of nature-friends organisations from other European countries such as work camps with various European environmental organisations, children’s groups and international study sessions.

German Young Nature Friends moreover defend the rights of children and their right to participation. Every two years, they organise a national Children’s Summit where children can voice their requests and demands for a future worth living and draw up a Contract for the Future, which is then submitted to politicians.

The German Young Nature Friends is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

**LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS**

With their Länder associations, German Young Nature Friends have a nationwide representation. Contact details are available at www.naturfreundejugend.de.
Naturschutzjugend im Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V.

Youth Organisation for the Protection of Nature

Charitéstr. 3; D-10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 284984-1900; Fax: +49 30 284984-2900
E-Mail: naju@naju.de; Internet: www.naju.de

The Youth organisation for the Protection of Nature is the youth organisation of the Association for the Protection of Nature, which was founded in 1982 in Germany. It promotes the understanding of youth for the protection of nature and the environment, particularly by conservation, creation and improvement of vital resources for an animal and plant world rich in species, as well as by protection and aid for endangered species.

Its further tasks include the promotion of the nature and environmental protection concept in the educational sector for children and young people and providing information to young persons on problems of natural and environmental protection. The projects play a large part in the activity of the Association and the co-operation with children and young people, child and youth groups, as well as youth organisations on a regional, national and international level.

The Association for the Protection of Nature is a member of YEE – Youth and Environment Europe (http://yee.een.cz).
Pan-European Youth Movement of Germany

c/o Dr. Oliver Theusinger
Dachauer Str. 17; D-80335 München
Tel.: +49 89 554683; Fax: +49 89 594768
E-Mail: kontakt@paneuropa-jugend.org; Internet: www.paneuropa-jugend.org

The Pan-European Youth Movement of Germany is a transnational and non-partisan organisation. Under the umbrella of the Pan-European Youth Movement of Germany (PEJ), which was founded in 1957, its German division also works in the spirit of international understanding and for the integration of all Europeans in a political union.

The programme is based on the ideological positions defined by Count Coudenhove-Kalergi, Briand and Stresemann. PEJ is against any form of collectivism and totalitarianism, which tries to impose conformity on individual initiatives and creativity and tries to replace it by bureaucratic planning and state tutelage. It demands a return to Europe’s Christian roots and advocates justice and human dignity for all groups of society. For PEJ, the European Community is only the starting point for the grand Europe of the future, which, in its opinion, must especially include the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe, who have just been freed from Communist oppression.

The Pan-European Youth Movement demands a rapid further development of the EU towards a political and economic union in Europe, a strengthening of the regions, a common foreign and security policy, the extension of the powers of the European Parliament, the harmonisation of university curricula and diplomas, school textbooks with a European orientation and EU recovery aid for Central and Eastern Europe.

In order to achieve these objectives, PEJ organises activities including public information events, seminars, street actions, information tours, training for multipliers as well as a speaker service for interested associations and schools.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

The Pan-European Youth Movement of Germany is represented nationwide through its Länder associations (exceptions: Saxony-Anhalt and Rhineland-Palatinate). Contact addresses are available at www.paneuropa-jugend.org.
Pfadfinderinnenschaft Sankt Georg

*Girl Guide’s Association of St George*

Unstrutstr. 10; D–51371 Leverkusen  
Tel.: +49 214 40392–0; Fax: +49 214 40392–22  
E-Mail: info@pfadfinderinnen.de; Internet: www.pfadfinderinnen.de

The Girl Guide’s Association of St George (PSG) was founded in 1947 as an organisation for Catholic girls. As an internationally recognized association, it is affiliated to WAGGGS, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. In WAGGGS, PSG is represented by the union of German Girl Guides Associations (► Ring Deutscher Pfadfinderinnenverbände).

Its primary objective is to strengthen girls and young women and to support them in developing their abilities so that girl guides participate in shaping the world as responsible citizens.

PSG’s activities are based on the principles of scouting. “Be prepared” means supporting girls and women in being independent and taking responsibility in society. The PSG Association is committed to the Gospel, which it perceives as a liberating and true-to-life message. PSG defends the rights of disadvantaged individuals, girls and women in the Church.

In its practical work, PSG is attentive to the integration of migrants and to a design of group activities, which enables the participation of children and young people with disabilities. Its work for children and young people takes place in four age groups (“Brownies”, 7–10 years; “Guides”, 10–14 years; “Caravelles”, 14–16 years; “Rangers”, 16 years and older).

Its programme includes age-specific project-oriented group activities, holiday camps, open activities for girls, international meetings as well as training and further education programmes for leaders.

**DIOCESAN OFFICES**  
The Girl Guide’s Association of St George is represented in 17 diocesan offices. Contact addresses are available at www.pfadfinderinnen.de.
Ring Deutscher Pfadfinderinnenverbände

Union of German Girl Guides Associations

Mühlendamm 3, D-10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 200545–64; Fax: +49 30 200545–66
E-Mail: rdp@scoutnet.de; Internet: www.scoutnet.de/rdp/

Three nationally active associations of girl guides are affiliated to the Union of German Girl Guides Associations (RDP): the female members of the Girl Guides and Scouts Association (Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder), the female members of the Girl Guides of St George (Pfadfinderinnenschaft St. Georg) and the female members of the Christian Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association (Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder).

RDP’s activities are intended to foster active co-operation on the basis of the common principles for girl guiding activities of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), to develop girls and young women and their abilities so that girl guides will participate in designing their future world as responsible and cosmopolitan citizens.

According to the principle “Look at the girl”, RDP’s activities start with the needs and expectations of girls and young women. Consequently, its affiliated associations work in age cohorts, which correspond to the level of development and the everyday realities of children and young people: brownies or cubs (7 to 10/11-year olds), girl guides (12 to 16-year-olds) or brownies and caravelles (10 to 13 and 13 to 16-year-olds, respectively) and rangers (16 years and older). In homogeneous groups and co-educative types of activities, girls and young women develop multifaceted qualifications through responsible action and thinking in line with the “learning by doing” principle. The project methodology and the exposure in small groups offer the widest possible scope for individual decision-making. Partnership and responsibility for certain activities promote individual responsibility, not least through the exposure to rules. In highly diverse projects, the scouting methodology enables girls and young women to find their bearings in their environment, to become aware of social and political interactions and to represent their interests in solidarity with others – on the local, German national and international level.

RDP also represents the interests of its affiliated associations in youth-policy matters, co-operates with other associations in the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring), and represents the concerns of girls and young women in public. As an affiliated organisation of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), RDP is committed to mutual acceptance, education for mutual understanding and peace and the world-wide abolition of injustice and poverty.

MEMBERS

▶ Pfadfinderinnenschaft Sankt Georg
▶ Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder e.V.
▶ Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder
Ring deutscher Pfadfinderverbände

Union of German Boy Scouts Associations

Mühlendamm 3; D–10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 200545–64; Fax: +49 30 200545–66
E-Mail: rdp@scoutnet.de; Internet: www.scoutnet.de/rdp

Since 1949, the German Boy Scouts of St George (Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg) and the male members of the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association (Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder), as well as the Christian Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association (Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder) have formed the Union of German Boy Scouts Associations (RdP).

These associations work according to the same guidelines as scouting, which they interpret and realise in a modern manner. Scouting youth work starts with the needs and expectations of young people and develops their abilities by experience and practice. In small and large groups, as well as in their mutual relationships to each other, the members learn to act as partners, to share success and to bear responsibility by carrying out tasks. Scouting youth work enables young people to find their bearings in their environment, to become aware of social and political contexts and to represent interests in solidarity with others.

The associations in the RdP offer young people practice fields for political behaviour. Their task is not to make the political decisions for each individual.

As a working group, the RdP represents the joint interests of its member associations and also campaigns for the needs of young people in the public. By its co-operation with other members of the World Scout Conference, the RdP supports the teaching of international understanding and, as a member of an international movement, feels particularly dedicated to the service for peace. That is why part of its work is responsible for the poor and the unjustly treated.

The RdP is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR) and the World Organisation of the Scout Movement – WOSM.

MEMBERS

Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder e.V.
Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg
Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder
The Union of Missionary Youth Movements (RMJ) was founded in 1974. It is an umbrella association for 69 member organisations that are primarily involved in youth work of the Protestant and Free Church, and employees about 2,700 full-time workers and about 17,000 voluntary workers. RMJ is a member association of the Diakonie Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland, EKD), member of the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland), the National Association of Employment Agencies (Bundesverband Personalvermittlung, BPV), and a voluntary youth service provider.

RMJ’s objectives are to promote socio-missionary youth work, to exchange experiences and information, to attend mutual interests, to promote the further training of employees (conferences for different groups of employees), and staff and organisational services as well as services related to the planning and organisation of major events.

RMJ is recognised as a voluntary youth service provider by the Ministry for Social and Family Affairs (Ministerium für Soziales und Familie) of Rhineland-Palatinate, and as a sponsoring organisation for the Voluntary Social Year, it supports almost 400 volunteers in more than 100 locations. RMJ runs an employment agency under the name “Christians in HR Services” (www.cps-online.org) with a database that contains more than 1,500 job seekers and more than 100 job offers in social welfare services, the church or businesses.

MEMBERS
Information on the members of the Union of Missionary Youth Movements is available on the Union’s website, www.rmj.de.
Solidarity Youth of Germany (Soli Youth) is an independent youth organisation of the Solidarity Cyclists' and Motorcyclists' Association (Rad- und Kraftfahrerbund Solidarität). It realises comprehensive, creative youth service activities with the following emphases: extracurricular youth education, youth sports, leisure and cultural activities, international youth work, work with girls and children, social work.

Solidarity Youth of Germany is an organisation for all young people below 27 irrespective of their gender, social origins, religious and party-political beliefs. Its youth work is primarily intended as a contribution towards educating young people so that they become critically-minded, responsible and responsive citizens in our society. This also includes their ability to analyse and to interpret social, societal and economic processes. In this context, young people are meant to recognize and realise their individual social needs.

Solidarity Youth of Germany regards the realisation of these objectives as emancipatory youth work. The sports activities offered by the association primarily, i.e. cycling, bicycle ball, bicycle polo, cycle racing, motorsports and figure rollerskating, are considered as the objective and also the starting point for its work.

The Solidarity Youth of Germany is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER YOUTH INSTITUTIONS/EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUPS

Solidarity Youth of Germany has Länder youth institutions (in Baden, Bavaria, Northrhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Sayony, Schleswig-Holstein, Berlin-Brandenburg, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, Württemberg) and executive working groups in North Bavaria, South Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg. Contact addresses are available at the National Office.
Sorbischer Jugendverein Pawk e. V.

Sorbian Youth Association

Serbski dom / Haus der Sorben; D–02625 Bautzen / Budyšín
Tel.: +49 3591 550105; Fax: +49 3591 42408
E-Mail: mail@pawk.de; Internet: www.pawk.de

The Sorbian Youth Association (Pawk) is an independent organisation for young Sorbs promoting the preservation and development of the Sorbian language, culture and identity. As the name “Pawk” (spider) suggests, its activities are principally geared to building up networks both within and beyond the bilingual and bicultural region of Lusatia and to spin a fine web for connecting people, projects, initiatives, institutions and ideas.

Its aim is to strengthen the self-esteem and the identity of young Sorbs, which includes enabling them to develop their own life strategies as Sorbs both within Lusatia and beyond, and to practice and pass on the Sorbian culture and language.

Throughout the year, the organisation runs projects in the fields of sports, film, culture and education, most of which take place in Upper Lusatia, although some are held in Lower Lusatia. It is stepping up its efforts at running joint projects for German and Sorbian youngsters and at organising projects held jointly with the neighbouring countries of Poland and the Czech Republic.

Since Pawk was founded in 1994, it has paid particular attention to policies affecting minorities in Europe. It is active in the network of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) and works for the preservation and development of the rights of minorities/nationalities and for cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe.

The Sorbian Youth Association Pawk is a member of Domowina, the umbrella organisation for Sorbs in Lusatia.
The roots of the Socialist Youth of Germany – The Falcons (SJD – The Falcons) date back to the year 1904, when the first Workers’ Youth Associations were founded. After fascism had been crushed, SJD – The Falcons was founded in 1946 as the successor organisation of the Socialist Workers’ Youth (Sozialistische Arbeiterjugend) and the Reich Association of Friends of Children – Red Falcons (Reichsarbeitsgemeinschaft der Kinderfreunde Deutschlands – Rote Falken).

In its group activities, in seminars, weekend outings and camps, SJD – The Falcons offer children and young people an opportunity to spend their leisure time with games, cultural activities, education events and political actions. The content of its work in children and youth groups contributes to information and awareness of the world and to the development of social awareness. Children and youth groups of SJD – The Falcons spend their holidays in camps, which are the highlight of their annual activities. Just as its youth work in the groups, its camp education is based on the principles of self-organisation and the representation of interests. With its orientation to the traditions of children and young people republics, there are democratic learning processes in solidarity; and children live and learn in self-government and self-determined communities. The fundamental principles of the association say that girls, boys, men and women should learn, work and live together and are thus aimed at the development of gender relations, which are free of prejudices and power struggles.

For SJD – The Falcons, international solidarity and friendship between peoples are part and parcel of its traditional obligations. Finally, its commitment to a common European house of East and West is an important element of international activities. Freedom, social justice and solidarity continue to be as yet unachieved objectives of the workers’ movement. SJD – The Falcons regard it as their ongoing responsibility to fight for their realisation in changing social conditions.

The Socialist Youth of Germany – The Falcons is a member of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS AND DISTRICTS

Socialist Youth of Germany – The Falcons are represented nationwide in a total of 28 Länder associations and districts. Contact addresses are available at www.sjd-die-falken.de.
THW-Jugend e.V.

*Youth of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief*

Provinzialstr. 93; D–53127 Bonn  
Tel.: +49 228 940–1327 und –1610; Fax: +49 228 940–1330  
E-Mail: bundesgeschaeftsstelle@thw-jugend.de; Internet: www.thw-jugend.de

Founded in 1984, the Youth of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW-Youth) is the independent junior organisation of the Technical Relief Association that acts as an voluntary desaster protection organisation with 80,000 members worldwide and is thus a humanitarian ambassador of Germany. More than 15,500 young people are involved in the Youth of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief in more than 665 youth groups that are run according to the motto “Playful learning to help others”. Girls and boys aged 10 to 18 find various ways to spend their free time in the Youth of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief. In addition, there are more than 20 mini groups with pilot character for children of ages 6 to 9.

In the THW-Youth young helpers familiarise themselves with rescue techniques and learn to use various tools for emergencies. Joint activities of the Youth of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, such as building rope bridges, cableways and rafts as well as trips to other towns and countries aim to promote the cohesion and tolerance of young people.

From the local youth to the national level, it holds youth camping and contests, often with other youth organisations in Germany and abroad. The biggest event is the Federal Young Camp (Bundezeltlager) that is held every two years with approximately 3,500 participants.

On the local level, the youth leader is responsible for the realisation of these goals and activities and is thus jointly answerable to the THW-Youth and the Federal Institution of the Technical Relief Association (Bundesanstalt THW). The responsible parties are trained in accordance with the standards of the Youth Leader Card (JuLeiCa) and are also taught specialist skills and the use of technical equipment to help them. In addition, there are numerous courses and seminars available to both the youth leaders and the children and young people. From the age of 17, the young helpers may be integrated in the technical activities of the THW-Youth.

The THW-Youth is a member of the Working Party of Central Youth Organisations (Arbeitskreis zentraler Jugendverbände), the German Youth Hostel Association (Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk), the Technical Relief Association Federal Association – Federal Association of the Helpers and Supporters of the Technical Relief Association (THW-Bundesvereinigung e. V. – Bundesvereinigung der Helfer und Förderer des Technischen Hilfswerks) and a partner of the Technical Relief Association Foundation (THW-Stiftung).

**LAND YOUTH MANAGEMENTS**

The THW-Youth is represented with Land youth managements in all Länder. Berlin, Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt have a joint Land youth management. Contact addresses are available at www.thw-jugend.de.
Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder

Christian Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association

Wichernweg 3; D-34121 Kassel
Tel.: +49 561 78437-0; Fax: +49 561 78437-40
E-Mail: info@vcp.de; Internet: www.vcp.de

Founded 1973, the Christian Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association (VCP) is the union of Protestant girls and boys; it is also open to children and young people from other/no denominations. The Association is the successor of the Association of Christian Girl Guides (Bund Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen), Christian Scouts in Germany (Christliche Pfadfinderschaft Deutschlands) and the Protestant Girl Guides’ Association (Evangelischer Mädchen-Pfadfinderbund). VCP has 47,000 members nationwide; 5,000 young people and adults are also involved on a voluntary basis.

In addition to trips in Germany and abroad and camping activities, socio-political involvement, co-education, ecological consciousness, Christian thinking and international orientation are among the basic principles of the work of the Scouts and Girl Guides in VCP. Being a Scout or a Girl Guide in VCP means living in a community and accepting other people and ways of life as an enrichment. Almost all groups maintain contacts to partner groups abroad. For VCP, living democracy means joint planning and implementation, as well as taking responsibility in a group.

On an association level, VCP is involved in varied projects, such as the renaturalisation of brooks, the renovation of children’s playgrounds and the holding of activities to collect money for the construction of a Romanian children’s home. VCP organises games activities for the children of refugees, provides specific support for schools in Africa and youth work in Kosovo.

Furthermore, the members of VCP are the biggest group of helpers to be voluntarily involved in the regular church days (every two years). At Advent, the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts of VCP take the light of peace from Bethlehem to children’s homes, schools, hospitals or asylum seekers’ homes. The light symbolises hope and solidarity – not just for Christians, but also for people of all religions and world views.

With more than 30 million members in 151 countries, the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts are the biggest non-state youth movement worldwide.

LAND OFFICES
The Christian Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association has 14 Land offices nationwide (excluding Saxony-Anhalt). Contact addresses are available at www.vcp.de.
Zionistische Jugend in Deutschland e. V.

Zionist Youth in Germany

Falkensteiner Str. 1; D-60322 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 74223643; Fax: +49 69 90500594
Internet: www.zjd-online.net

Before the Second World War, there was a large number of Zionist youth organisations in Germany with different political orientations, and they provided a sound social framework to Jewish adolescents. They were the home of numerous strong personalities, who then developed into major champions for the foundation of today’s state and played an active role in this context. These youth organisations were destroyed by Nationalist Socialist Germany together with the majority of German Jews. Young people from the re-established Jewish communities in post-war Germany came together and founded Zionist Youth in Germany in 1959, which now has 250 members between 12 and 18 years.

Z. J. D.’s principal activities are organised in Frankfurt/Main, Berlin and Munich. In its education groups for specific age cohorts, Z. J. D. teaches humanist/Jewish values and forms of life, which are regarded as part and parcel of the German/Jewish identity.

Starting with the more intensive Jewish immigration waves from the former USSR in the 1990s, Z. J. D. has been actively committed to the integration of these young immigrants into the community of active Jewish adolescents.
ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CULTURAL EDUCATION

4.1 NATIONAL REPRESENTATION BODIES OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung e. V.
German Federation for Cultural Youth Education

4.2 FURTHER EDUCATION

Akademie Remscheid für musische Bildung und Medienerziehung e. V.
Remscheid Academy for Education in Music, the Arts and Media

Bundesakademie für musikalische Jugendbildung Trossingen
Federal Academy for Musical Youth Education – Trossingen

4.3 INTERDISCIPLINARY CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Bundesverband der Jugendkunstschulen und kulturpädagogischen Einrichtungen e. V.
Federal Association of Youth Art Schools and Institutions of Cultural Education

Bundesverband Kulturarbeit in der evangelischen Jugend e. V.
Federal Association for Cultural Work with Protestant Youth

4.4 LITERATURE

Arbeitskreis für Jugendliteratur e. V.
Association for Children and Youth Literature

Bundesverband Friedrich-Bödecker-Kreis e. V.
Federal Association of Friedrich Bödecker Circles

Deutsche Akademie für Kinder- und Jugendliteratur e. V.
German Academy for Children’s and Youth Literature

Internationale Jugendbibliothek
International Youth Library

4.5 MEDIA

Blickwechsel e. V. – Verein für Medien- und Kulturpädagogik
Change of Perspective – Association for Media and Cultural Education

Bundesverband Jugend und Film e. V.
Federal Association for Youth and Film

Bundesweites Schülerfilm- und Videozentrum e. V.
National Film and Video Centre for School Students
ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CULTURAL EDUCATION

European Youth4Media Network e. V.  
*European Youth4Media Network*

Förderverein Deutscher Kinderfilm e. V.  
*German Support Association for Children’s Film*

Gesellschaft für Medienpädagogik und Kommunikationskultur in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V.  
*Association for Media Education and Communication Culture in the Federal Republic of Germany*

Internationales Zentralinstitut für das Jugend- und Bildungsfernsehen (IZI)  
*International Central Institute for Youth and Educational Television*

Internet-ABC e. V.  
*Internet-ABC*

JFF – Institut für Medienpädagogik in Forschung und Praxis  
*JFF – Institute for Media Research and Media Education*

Kinder- und Jugendfilmzentrum in Deutschland  
*Children’s and Youth Film Centre in Germany*

Konferenz der Landesfilmdienste für Jugend- und Erwachsenenbildung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V.  
*Conference of the Regional Film Services for Youth and Adult Education in the Federal Republic of Germany*

Netzwerk Computermedienpädagogik e. V.  
*Network for Computer Media Education*

Programmberatung für Eltern e. V.  
*Programme Counselling for Parents*

SIN – Studio im Netz e. V.  
*SIN – Studio on the Web*

4.6 MUSIC

Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend – Deutsche Föderation Junger Chöre und Instrumentalgruppen e. V.  
*Study Group on Music in Youth – German Federation of Young Choirs and Instrumental Ensembles*

Bund Deutscher Zupfmusiker e. V.  
*Federation of German Musicians of Plucked Instruments*

Bundesbegegnung “Jugend jazzt”  
*National Forum “Youth Plays Jazz”*

Bundesjugendjazzorchester  
*National Youth Jazz Orchestra*
ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS
FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CULTURAL EDUCATION

Bundesjugendorchester – Nationales Jugendorchester der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
National Youth Orchestra of the Federal Republic of Germany

Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Orchesterverbände e. V.
German Union of Orchestra Associations

Deutscher Musikrat gemeinnützige Projektgesellschaft mbH
German Music Council Non-Profit Project Company

Europa Cantat – Europäische Föderation Junger Chöre e. V.
Europa Cantat – European Federation of Young Choirs

Internationaler Arbeitskreis für Musik e. V.
International Society for Music

Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland e. V.
Association of Young German Instrumentalists

Jugend musiziert
Youth Makes Music

SchoolJam – bundesweites Schülerbandfestival
SchoolJam – Nationwide School Band Festival

Verband deutscher Musikschulen e. V.
Association of German Music Schools

Werkgemeinschaft Musik e. V.
Association for Music

4.7 THEATRE AND PLAY

ASSITEJ Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V. (Internationale Vereinigung des Theaters für Kinder und Jugendliche)
ASSITEJ – Federal Republic of Germany Section, International Association of Theatres for Children and Youth

Bund Deutscher Amateurtheater e. V.
Federation of German Amateur Theatres

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Spiel und Theater e. V.
Federal Working Group on Drama and Theatre

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Spielmobile e. V.
Federal Association of Mobile Play

Bundesverband Darstellendes Spiel e. V.
National Association for Drama/Theatre in Education

Bundesverband Theaterpädagogik e. V.
Federal Association for Theatre Education

Katholische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Spiel und Theater e. V.
Catholic Association for Play and Theatre
**4 ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CULTURAL EDUCATION**

Kinder- und Jugendtheaterzentrum in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
Children's and Youth Theatre Centre in the Federal Republic of Germany

4.8 OTHER FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

Archiv der Jugendkulturen e. V.  
*Archive of Youth Cultures*

BDK e. V. Fachverband für Kunstpädagogik  
*BDK e.V. Association for Art Education*

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Zirkuspädagogik e. V.  
*German Working Group for Circus Education*

Bundesverband Deutscher Kinder- und Jugendmuseen e. V.  
*Federal Association of German Children’s and Youth Museums*

Deutscher Bundesverband Tanz e. V.  
*German Federal Dance Association*

Deutscher Verband für Fotografie e. V.  
*German Photographic Association*

4.9 SPONSORING FOUNDATIONS AND SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS

Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben  
*German Music Foundation*

Fonds Soziokultur e. V.  
*Socio-Cultural Fund*

PwC-Stiftung Jugend – Bildung – Kultur  
*PwC-Foundation*

Stiftung Lesen  
*Reading Foundation*
German Federation for Cultural Youth Education

Küppelstein 34; D–42857 Remscheid
Tel.: +49 2191 794390; Fax: +49 2191 794389
E-Mail: info@bkj.de; Internet: www.bkj.de

The German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (BKJ) is a union of 50 institutions, professional associations and Länder associations with nationwide activities in cultural child and youth education. Music, games, theatre, dance, rhythm, plastic arts, literature, media, circus and further cultural education all form part of its activities. The association offers quality assurance and qualification to artistic and cultural education activities in music schools, youth groups or schools, theatre groups, radio and film workshops, children’s museums and dance companies, choirs, music clubs, children's libraries, reading clubs, children's circuses, mobile playing units and computer forums – i.e. wherever arts and culture are created by, for and with children and young people, and this includes schools.

BKJ represents the interests of youth, education and cultural policy in this field of activity on the Länder, federal, European and international levels. In addition to consultancy on professional and conceptual issues, BKJ attaches particular significance to the ongoing exchange of information and experience with all its affiliated associations and other interested groups in Germany and abroad.

BKJ regularly provides a fresh impetus for practical activities resulting from its development and realisation of model projects. This includes conferences and congresses, as well as long-term quality assurance in the shape of evaluation or an international exchange of professionals. For the Federal Government, BKJ is the central partner for cultural child and youth education. BKJ is financially supported by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend).

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

VISUAL AND PLASTIC ARTS
- BDK e.V. Fachverband für Kunstpädagogik
- Bundesverband Deutscher Kinder- und Jugendmuseen e.V.

FURTHER EDUCATION
- Akademie Remscheid für musische Bildung und Medienpädagogik e.V.
- Bundesakademie für musikalische Jugendbildung Trossingen

INTERDISCIPLINARY CULTURAL
- Bundesverband der Jugendkunstschulen und kulturpädagogischen Einrichtungen e.V.
- Bundesverband Kulturarbeit in der evangelischen Jugend e.V.
- Bundesverband Museumspädagogik e.V.
  Landesstelle für die nichtstaatlichen Museen in Bayern, Alter Hof 2, D–80331 München.
  Tel. +49 89 210140–27, Fax +49 89 210140–40,
  kunz-ott@museumspaedagogik.org, www.museumspaedagogik.org
LITERATURE

- Arbeitskreis für Jugendliteratur e. V.
- Bundesverband Friedrich-Bödecker-Kreis e. V.
- Internationale Jugendbibliothek
- Stiftung Lesen
- Bundesverband Jugend und Film e. V.
- Bundesweites Schülerfilm- und Videozentrum e. V.
- Deutscher Verband für Fotografie e. V.
- Förderverein Deutscher Kinderfilm e. V.
- Gesellschaft für Medienpädagogik und Kommunikationskultur in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V.
- Kinder- und Jugendsinfonetz in Deutschland

MUSIC

Arbeitskreis für Schulmusik e. V.
C/o Jürgen Terhag – Hochschule für Musik Köln Dagobertstr. 38, D–50688 Köln, Tel. +49 221 912818–117
juergen.terhag@uni-koeln.de, www.terhag.de

- Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend – Deutsche Föderation
- Junger Chöre und Instrumentalgruppen e. V.
- Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Orchesterverbände e. V.
- Deutsche Bläserjugend in der Bundesvereinigung
- Deutscher Musikerbund e. V. (BDMV)
- Deutscher Musikrat gemeinnützige Projektgesellschaft mbH
- Internationaler Arbeitskreis für Musik e. V.
- Jugendkultur und Bildung
- Verband deutscher Musikhochschulen e. V.
- Verbandsvereinigung Musik in der Jugend – Deutsche Föderation
- Werkgemeinschaft Musik e. V.

PLAY/THEATRE

- ASSITEJ Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V. (Internationale Vereinigung des Theaters für Kinder und Jugendliche)
- Bund Deutscher Amateurtheater e. V.
- Bundesarbeitsorganisation Spiel und Theater e. V.
- Bundesarbeitsorganisation Spiel und Theater e. V.
- Bundesverband Theaterpädagogik und Kulturpädagogik e. V.
- Katholische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Spiel und Theater e. V.
- Kinder- und Jugendtheaterzentrum in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

DANCE

- Deutscher Bundesverband Tanz e. V.

CIRCUS

- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Zirkuspädagogik e. V.

LÄNDER UNIONS

LAG Soziokultur und Kulturbildung Rheinland-Pfalz e. V.
Mayer-Alberti-Str. 11, D–56070 Koblenz, Tel. +49 261 982115–0, Fax +49 261 982115–9, info@kulturbuero-rlp.de, www.kulturbuero-rlp.de

Landesverenigung Kulturelle Bildung Bayern e. V.
c/o PA/SPIEKeV Saarland e. V.
Leopoldstr. 61, D–80802 München, Tel. +49 89 2609208, Fax +49 89 268575, info@lkby.de, www.lkby.de

LJK Baden-Württemberg e. V.
Rosenbergstr. 50, D–70176 Stuttgart, Tel. +49 711 6203908–5, Fax +49 711 6203908–6, projektbuero@ljkwb.de, www.ljkwb.de

LJK Berlin e. V.
Obenrautstr. 57, D–10963 Berlin, Tel. +49 30 29668776, Fax +49 30 29668770, info@lkj-berlin.de, www.lkj-berlin.de

LJK Brandenburg e. V.
Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 135, D–14482 Potsdam, Tel. +49 33 7482332, Fax +49 351 7482325, lkjb@gmx.de

LJK Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e. V.
Am Bahnhof 1, D–19395 Ganzlin, Tel. +49 38737 33431, Fax +49 38737 33414, info@lkj-mv.de, www.lkj-mv.de

LJK Niedersachsen e. V.
Arnswaldstr. 28, D–30159 Hannover, Tel. +49 511 60060550, Fax +49 511 60060560, info@lkjn.de, www.lkjn.de

LJK Nordrhein-Westfalen e. V.
Wittenenerstr. 3, D–44149 Dortmund, Tel. +49 231 101335, Fax +49 231 101352, lkj-nrw@t-online.de, www.lkj-nrw.de

LJK Sachsen e. V.
Sternwartenstr. 4, D–04103 Leipzig, Tel. +49 341 2577305, Fax +49 341 2577306, info@lkj-sachsen.de, www.lkj-sachsen.de

LJK Sachsen-Anhalt e. V.
Liebigstr. 5, D–39104 Magdeburg, Tel. +49 391 2445160, Fax +49 391 2445170, lkj@jugend-lsa.de, www.jugend-lsa.de

LJK Schleswig-Holstein e. V.
Schulstr. 18, D–24250 Lübeck, Tel. +49 4302 900657, Fax +49 4302 900658, lkj@lkj-sh.de, www.lkj-sh.de

LJK Thüringen e. V.
Markstr. 6, D–99084 Erfurt, Tel. +49 361 5623306, Fax +49 361 5623345, kontakt@lkjthueringen.de, www.lkjthueringen.de
The Remscheid Academy for Education in Music, the Arts and Media was founded in 1958 as the central federal institute for cultural youth education. It is run by an autonomous non-profit association, in which cultural education and youth work are represented as practical fields of application.

The mission of Remscheid Academy is to offer specific and interdisciplinary qualifications for full-time, part-time and volunteer staff in cultural youth education as well as youth, educational and social services as a means of their continuous and further education. It also offers professional consultancy services on topical issues of cultural and media education to facilities and associations for youth education, social services and cultural services.

Remscheid Academy offers long-term in-service education and further training courses, workshops, seminars and expert conferences in the following fields: cultural education, cultural services, music, musical education, rhythmic art, rhythmic education, theatre and drama, theatre science, visual and plastic arts, video art, computer literacy, computer graphics, press and public relations, international encounters, dance, kinesiology, games, games education, literature, photography, media education, media consultancy, social psychology and counselling. In its courses, the Academy pursues a cultural approach to education, which involves the whole individual.

The target groups for these educational programmes are: professionals and therapists in social services, education, and the arts working in the field of youth, educational, social and cultural services and normally with completed professional training. In addition to these target groups, the programme of Remscheid Academy is intended for the staff of youth and cultural authorities as well as members of political youth and cultural associations and decision-making bodies.

In addition to its primary mission as an institute for further education, Remscheid Academy for Education in Music, the Arts and Media is also the legal entity or the head office for the following institutions and organisations of cultural education:
- Arts & education network e. V. (c/o BKJ);
- Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendarbeit;
- Deutscher Bundesverband Tanz;
- Dokumentationsstelle Kulturelle Bildung;
- Institut für Bildung und Kultur;
- Kinder- und Jugendfilmzentrum in Deutschland;
- Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Musik Nordrhein-Westfalen;
- Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tanz Nordrhein-Westfalen;
- Rat für Soziokultur und kulturelle Bildung im Deutschen Kulturrat (c/o BKJ).
Bundesakademie für musikalische Jugendbildung Trossingen

Federal Academy for Musical Youth Education – Trossingen

Hugo-Herrmann-Str. 22, D–78647 Trossingen
Tel.: +49 7425 9493-0; Fax: +49 7425 9493-21
E-Mail: mail@bundesakademie-trossingen.de
Internet: www.bundesakademie-trossingen.de

The Federal Academy for Musical Youth Education – Trossingen was established in 1973 as a national further education institution with exclusive activities in musical education. It is dedicated to instrumental and vocal music performed by young people and offers further training and consultancy services to the staff of out-of-school musical service providers for young people.

In view of this objective, it pursues the following activities: continuous education for conductors and staff of amateur music associations; further education of music teachers at music academies and freelance teachers; further education for professionals teaching music in social education and special education facilities, continuous education of experts in musical youth work in the form of international seminars; consultancy to associations, institutions and executives on issues of musical youth services; national model projects; publication of project outcomes to assist music associations and staff in extracurricular musical youth services. In-service courses constitute the majority of activities in the Federal Academy.

As an institution, the Federal Academy is funded under the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth) and under the Land Youth Plan of Baden-Württemberg (Ministry for Culture and Education, Youth and Sports of Baden-Württemberg).

MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISERS’ ASSOCIATION

More than 30 associations active in musical education, instrumental and vocal amateur music, church music as well as associations of the musical professions have formed the Organisers’ Association of the Federal Academy. The members’ details are available at www.bundesakademie-trossingen.de.
INTERDISCIPLINARY CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Bundesverband der Jugendkunstschulen und kulturpädagogischen Einrichtungen e. V.

Federal Association of Youth Art Schools and Institutions of Cultural Education

Kurpark 5; D-59425 Unna
Tel.: +49 2303 69324 and 65618; Fax: +49 2303 65057
E-Mail: info-bjke@bjke.de; Internet: www.bjke.de

Approximately half a million children and young people per year participate in the courses, projects, open workshops and actions, which are offered by youth art schools and institutions of cultural education in the Federal Republic of Germany. In approximately 400 institutions and initiatives, it includes programmes in fields such as dance, theatre, visual design, photography, music, literature, film production, plastic arts and new media.

As a nationwide specialist association, the Federal Association of Youth Art Schools and Institutions of Cultural Education (bjke) promotes the enhancement, further development and maintenance of a national network of youth art schools and institutions of cultural education as well as cultural education in general. bjke offers a service and consultancy programme to its members from the Länder and is the contact for initiatives, institutions, specialist associations, individual facilities as well as local authorities and ministries. Beyond the German borders, it participates in the “Arts4all” project, whose aim is to network youth art schools and creativity centres on the European level.

Specifically, bjke offers the following general and consultancy services: representation of its affiliates’ interest vis-à-vis the responsible ministries, politicians and associations; professional exchange in meetings and conferences; publications and pilot projects (on intercultural competences in youth art schools, for example). bjke pursues public relations activities taking the form of press services, books, magazines (it is co-publisher of the cultural education magazine “Cultural education news information service” (infodienst Kulturpädagogische Nachrichten)). Education services and qualification services in co-operation with partners are included in its programme just as consultancy for individual facilities on organisational and conceptual matters. bjke advises and co-operates with Länder working parties and offers consultancy to local authorities and the Länder with respect to funding concepts, youth services and cultural development planning.

Länder working parties or Länder associations of youth art schools and cultural education institutions are active in almost all Länder and they also offer on-site support to local public and private facilities and their activities in Länder policy matters.

MEMBERS
The addresses of affiliates are listed on the bjke website (www.bjke.de).
Bundesverband Kulturarbeit in der evangelischen Jugend e.V.

Federal Association for Cultural Work with Protestant Youth

Hülbeweg 2; D-72218 Wildberg
Tel.: +49 7054 928928; Fax: +49 7054 92478
E-Mail: traub@bka-online.org
Internet: www.bka-online.org, www.kulturellekompetenz.de

The Federal Association for Cultural Work with Protestant Youth dates back to 1950. At the time, the associations, federations, and institutions that belonged to the “Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany” (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend Deutschlands, aej) joined to become the “Musical Association of Protestant Youth Music” (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Musik für evangelische Jugendmusik). After being re-named to “Music Association of Protestant Youth” in 1962, becoming a registered non-profit association in 1971, and the unification of the AGM (East) and AGM (West) in 1991, and another re-naming to “Music Federation – Federal Associatio for Christian Youth Culture” (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Musik – Bundesverband für christliche Jugendkultur) in the course of a statutory reform in 2000, the organisation integrated the federal profile of the “Study Group on Play” in 2004, and since bears its current name, Federal Association for Cultural Work with Protestant Youth (bka).

bka is an association of organisations that focus on cultural work with young people within the scope of Protestant youth in Germany. It is their goal to support their member organisations and represent their interests, and to encourage networking and exchange at a national level among the member organisations.

bka develops concepts for all genres and age groups for the qualification of voluntary and full-time workers in cultural youth work and cultural education.

With its offer of courses, seminars, and projects in the fields of aesthetic education, media, music, play, and theatre, bka is active in almost all areas of church youth education. The projects supported by bka serve to link regional structures with topics of national and European relevance.

bka is the sponsoring organisation of the “CrossOver” youth network, which is supported by the BMFSFJ (Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth) and the EU’s Youth in Action programme. Above this, it also the sponsoring organisation of the “Cool Monkeys” initiative against mobbing in schools. Moreover, bka supports effective events and federal associations throughout Germany in the context of cultural and church youth education work.

Supported by the “German Youth Stamp” Foundation (Stiftung Deutsche Jugendmarke), bka will launch a model project for a newly developed compact modular training scheme under the motto “Cultural Competence and Creativity” on the further education market in 2008. The model project is coupled with the introduction of programmes to obtain the “Cultural Competence Certificate” (Kompetenznachweis Kultur) of the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung, BKJ). bka is the sponsoring organisation for one of the service points for the “Cultural Competence Certificate”.

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MEMBERS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Bund Christlicher Posaunenchöre Deutschlands
BCPD–Geschäftsstelle,
Lutherplatz 23, D–01762 Schmiedeberg,
Tel. +49 35052 21–00, Fax +49 35052 21–017,
bw@werner@bcpd.de, www.bcpd.de

Christlicher Sängerbund
Westfalenweg 207, D–42111 Wuppertal,
Tel. +49 202 750633, Fax +49 202 755304,
info@cs-vg.de, www.cs-vsg.de

CVM-Gesamtverband in Deutschland e.V.

Deutscher Jugenderbud "Entschieden für Christus" e.V.

gemeinschaft der siebenten-tags-adventisten
Süddeutscher Verband,
Senefelder Str. 15, D–73760 Ostfildern,
Tel. +49 711 44819–22, Fax +49 711 44819–60,
friedbert.hartmann@adventjugend.de,
www.adventjugend.de

Jugendwerk der evangelisch-methodistischen kirche

INTER DISCIPLINARY CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Musik Sachsen e.V.
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Musik Mecklenburg e.V.

LÄNDER WORKING GROUPS

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Musik Mecklenburg e.V.
August-Bebel-Str. 5, D–18055 Rostock,
Tel. +49 381 25737, Fax +49 381 4591619,
andreas.braun@evkijuro.de, www.evkijuro.de

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Musik Sachsens e.V.
im Pfarrsitz 19, D–09221 Neukirchen,
Tel. +49 371 2629684, Fax +49 371 2629684,
tost@evjusa.de, www.crossover-agm.de/agms
4.3 ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CULTURAL EDUCATION

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Musik Nordelbien
Nordelbisches Jugendpfarramt, Koppelsberg 3, D–24306 Plön,
Tel. +49 4522 507–143, Fax +49 4522 507–100

Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Musik in der Evangelischen Jugend Hannover
c/o Harald Barthel,
Salinenstr. 8, D–30455 Hannover,
Tel. +49 511 91700864, barthel.harald@freenet.de

Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Musik in der Evangelischen Jugend Hannover
Weitinger Str. 37, D–90449 Nürnberg,
Tel. +49 911 2523961, Fax +49 911 2523962,
info@popularmusikverband.de, www.popmusikverband.de

Netzwerk Computermedienpädagogik e.V.
Netzwerk Spiel & Kultur. Playing Arts e.V.
c/o Burckhardthaus, Postfach 1164, D–63551 Gelnhausen,
Tel. +49 8623 987671, Fax +49 8623 987672,
kontakt@netzwerk-spielundkultur.de, www.netzwerk-spielundkultur.de

SpiegelTheaterWerkstatt Frankfurt
Markgrafenstr. 14, D–60487 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 71379 103 und 06151 2007,
Fax +49 69 71379131, s-t-werkstatt-ffm@ag-spiel.de, www.die-spiel-und-theater-werkstatt-frankfurt.de

Studienzentrum für evangelische Jugendarbeit in Josefstal e.V.
Aurachstr. 5, D–83727 Schliersee–Josefstal,
Tel. +49 8026 9756–0, Fax +49 8026 9756–50,
studienzentrum@josefstal.de, www.josefstal.de

Tor Weg Wohnung e.V. – Gutshof für Spiel und Theater Hohenolsms
Hubert Heck, Vereinsvorsitz,
Bogenstr. 13, D–63526 Erlensee,
Tel. +49 6183 900778, Fax +49 6183 900779,
hubert@torwegwohnung.de, www.torwegwohnung.de

INSTITUTIONS
dell’arte e.V.
c/o Angelika Hüffell,
Rahlstedter Str. 223, D–22143 Hamburg,
Tel. +49 40 67718–19, Fax +49 40 67718–34,
a.hueffell@web.de, www.dellarte-theaterpaedagogik.de

Michaeliskloster Hildesheim – Evangelisches Zentrum für Gottesdienst und Kirchenmusik
Hinter der Michaeliskirche 3–5, D–31134 Hildesheim,
Tel. +49 5121 6971–550, Fax +49 5121 6971–555,
info@michaeliskloster.de, www.michaeliskloster.de

Music Office Hagen
c/o Kultopia,
Konkordiastr. 23–25, D–58095 Hagen,
Tel. +49 2331 788700, Fax +49 2331 2072070,
musicofficehagen@email.de, www.musicoffice-hagen.de

INSTITUTIONS
The Association for Children and Youth Literature was founded in 1955 and is an umbrella organisation of organisations, institutions and individuals. Its founding members included authors, librarians, publishers and politicians, among them well-known personalities such as Erich Kästner and Jella Lepman.

The purpose of the Association is the coordination of all forces in the aim of promoting children and youth literature, encouraging research and establishing international contacts.

The association has 37 affiliated organisations representing regional and national expert associations and institutions representing the science, research and education communities, libraries, publishing houses and retail booksellers, social and youth services. Its members also include approx. 200 individuals, mostly renowned experts for children and youth literature.

The mission of the Association for Children and Youth Literature includes the promotion of reading activities and literary education in cultural youth work, the responsibility for the German Youth Book Award as the only literature prize, which has been continuously awarded by a ministry in the Federal Republic of Germany since 1956, the publication of lists of recommended children and youth literature, the publication of teaching materials for the professions dealing with children and youth literature as well as the organisation of national and even international events for experts in children and youth literature as well as seminars and meetings for individual professions (educators, social educators, librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists) on current children and youth literature topics.
Borromäusverein e. V.
Wittelsbacherring 9, D–53115 Bonn,
Tel. +49 228 7258-0, Fax +49 228 7258-189,
info@borro.de, www.borro.de

Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels
Referat Leseförderung,
www.boersenverein.de

Bund Deutscher Grafik-Designer e. V.
Bundesgeschäftsstelle,
Schlesische Str. 29/30, D–10997 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 2451490, Fax +49 30 53670526,
info@bgd-designer.de, www.bgd-designer.de

Bundesverband evangelischer Ausbildungsstätten für Sozialpädagogik

Deutsche Akademie für Kinder- und Jugendliteratur e. V.
Deutsche Bischofskonferenz
Bereich Kirche und Gesellschaft,
Kaiserstr. 161, D–53113 Bonn,
Tel. +49 228 103–0, Fax +49 228 103–299,
www/dbk.de

Deutsche Blindenstudienanstalt e. V.
Deutsche Blinden-Bibliothek
Am Schlag 2A, D–35037 Marburg,
Tel. +49 6421 6060, Fax +49 6421 606229,

Deutscher Ärzteinnenbund e. V.
Herbert-Lewin-Platz 1, D–10623 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 400456–540, Fax +49 30 400456–541,
gdskaeb@aerztinnenbund.de,
www.aerztinnenbund.de

Deutscher Bibliotheksverband
Straße des 17. Juni 114, D–10623 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 39001480, Fax +49 30 39001484,
dvb@bibliotheksverband.de,
www.bibliotheksverband.de

Deutscher Bundesjugendring

Deutscher Philologenverband Bundesgeschäftsstelle
Friedrichstr. 169/170, D–10117 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 4081–6781, Fax +49 30 4081–6788,
info@dphv.de, www.dphv.de

DVEB Deutscher Verband Evangelischer Büchereien
Bürgerstr. 2A, D–37073 Göttingen,
Tel. +49 551 5007590,
www.dveb.info

ekz.bibliotheksService GmbH
Bismarckstr. 3, D–72764 Reutlingen,
Tel. +49 7121 144–0, Fax +49 7121 144–280,
info@ekz.de, www.ekz.bibliotheksService.de

Europäische Märchengesellschaft e. V.
Bentlager Weg 130, D–48432 Rheine,
info@maerchen-emg.de,
www.maerchen-emg.de

Friedrich-Bödecker-Kreis in Niedersachsen
Künstlerhaus,
Sophienstr. 2, D–30159 Hannover,
www.boedecker-kreis.de

Friedrich-Bödecker-Kreis in Bayern
Eva Rubach,
Adolf-Kolping-Str. 15, D–83093 Bad Endorf

Friedrich-Bödecker-Kreis in Hessen
Johanna Schulz,
Buchenweg 2, D–36142 Tann/Rhön

Friedrich-Bödecker-Kreis in NRW
c/o Renate Bugey,
Franz-Böhm-Str. 2, D–40789 Monheim

Gemeinschaft zur Förderung von Kinder- und Jugendliteratur e. V.
Weinmeisterstr. 5, D–10117 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 2829747, Fax +49 30 2829769,
www.lesart.org

Gesellschaft für Kinder- und Jugendliteraturforschung
Käthe-Kollwitz-Str. 3, D–60323 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 79833001, dolle-weinkauff@rz.uni-frankfurt.de,
www.grammar.de

Institut für Jugendbuchforschung der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität
Gruneburgplatz 2, D–60323 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 79832995, Fax +49 69 79832996,
jubufo@rz.uni-frankfurt.de,
www.uni-frankfurt.de/fb/fb10jubufo

Internationale Jugendbibliothek
Internationales Literaturfestival Berlin
Chausseest. 5, D–10115 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 278786–20, Fax +49 30 278786–85,
info@literaturfestival.com,
www.literaturfestival.com

Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Jugend und Literatur NRW e. V.
Wittener Str. 3, D–41499 Dortmund,
Tel. +49 231 1765881, Fax +49 231 1765809,
info@jugendstil-nrw.de,
www.jugendstil-nrw.de

Mecklenburgische Literatur-Gesellschaft
Wiekhäusl 21/Zwote Ringstr.,
D–17033 Neubrandenburg

Sankt Michaelsbund München
Herzog-Wilhelm-Str. 5, D–80331 München,
Tel. +49 89 23225–0,
info@st-michaelsbund.de,
www.st-michaelsbund.de

Stiftung lesen
Verband Bildung und Erziehung
Behenstr. 23/24, D–10117 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 7261966–0, Fax +49 30 7261966–19,
bundesverband@vbe.de, www.vbe.de

Verband Deutscher Schriftsteller/VS in ver.di
Paula-Thiede-Ufer 10, D–10179 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 6956–2327,
vs@verdi.de, www.verband-deutscher-schriftsteller.de/aktuelles.html

Verein für Leseförderung e. V.
Theo Kaufmann,
Im Baumstücker 10, D–71334 Waiblingen,
Tel. +49 7131 15062, Fax +49 7131 507198,
kontakt@lesenfoerdung-waiblingen.de,
www.lessfeorderung-waiblingen.de

Verband deutschsprachiger Übersetzer literarischer und wissenschaftlicher Werke e. V.
Kyrinestr. 15, D–81371 München,
www.literaturuebersetzer.de/index.htm

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The first Friedrich-Bödecker-Circle (Friedrich-Bödecker-Kreis, FBK) was established in 1954 in the aim of working in cultural youth education and specifically in the area of child and youth literature, and to realise this aim by offering readings by authors, exhibitions, advice and information. Its objective is to enable children or young individuals to actively participate in literary life on the basis of the child’s own decision. The individual circles address all teachers and go-betweens for literature and especially include the media. In 1981, the Federal Association of Friedrich Bödecker Circles was founded. It is the umbrella organisation of existing autonomous Länder associations and has primarily coordinating functions. All Länder associations work as independent associations.

FBK’s mission is to support the individual Länder associations in their education and organisational work for children and youth literature in co-operation with children, young people, adults and their institutions and to coordinate their joint activities. The concrete activities of the Länder associations include: readings by and discussions with authors in libraries, for youth groups, in youth centres, schools, youth seminars, youth detention centres and with teachers; providing information and consultancy on inter-regional events such as literature weeks, youth literature weeks, further education events for teachers, academies; hosting exhibitions and mobile exhibitions; compiling directories of selected literature and author directories; organising bi-annual international meetings of authors of children and youth literature in connection with the “Meeting point Hanover” (Treffpunkt Hannover) as well as co-operating with other institutions.

**LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS**

The Federal Association of Friedrich Bödecker Circles has Länder associations in all Länder. The Brandenburg Association is the acting manager of the Berlin Association, and Saxony is currently in a re-organisation phase. The Association currently prepares its re-establishment. Contact addresses are available at www.boedecker-kreis.de.
Deutsche Akademie für Kinder- und Jugendliteratur e. V.

German Academy for Children’s and Youth Literature

Schelfengasse 1, D-97332 Volkach
Tel.: +49 9381 4355
E-Mail: info@akademie-kjl.de; Internet: www.akademie-kjl.de

The German Academy for Children’s and Youth Literature was founded in 1976 and is a group of personalities who have been active in the field of children’s and youth literature and have therefore acquired special qualifications. The Academy receives substantial support from the City of Volkach, the District of Lower Franconia, the Bavarian Ministry for Education and Culture (Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Unterricht und Kultus), the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) and the Foundation of Bavarian Savings Banks (Bayerische Sparkassenstiftung). The primary task of the Academy is the moral and non-profit promotion of children’s and youth literature.

The Academy organises annual seminars and issues its own series of papers. The current production of children’s and youth literature is acknowledged by its regular “Book of the month” award, which is given to three new publications in the areas of picture, children’s and youth books. The members design a loose-leaf encyclopaedia on children’s and youth literature, which has been published by Corian Publishers (Corian-Verlag) since 1995. The annual “Grand Prix”, which is sponsored by the Bayerische Sparkassenstiftung (Bavarian Savings Banks’ Foundation) is awarded by the Academy to personalities and institutions, who have acquired special merits in youth literature. The “Volkacher Taler (Volkach Medal)” is awarded annually for outstanding individual achievements.

The Academy’s newsletter, the “Volkacher Bote (Volkach Courier)” is sent free of charge to interested individuals. The Academy also publishes lists of recommended Christian, historical, fantasy and non-fiction books for children and young people. Since 2007, the Academy has issued an annual calendar of events (readings, education events, awards ceremonies), which is available in leporello format and on the Internet.
**International Youth Library**

Schloss Blutenburg; D–81247 München  
Tel.: +49 89 8912110; Fax: +49 89 8117553  
E-Mail: info@ijb.de; Internet: www.ijb.de

The International Youth Library (IJB) is the owner of a collection of international child and youth literature, which is unique worldwide. It was opened in 1949. Meanwhile, it houses a stock of almost 600,000 international children and youth books in more than 130 languages including 80,000 historical books and 30,000 titles of international specialist literature.

Its tasks in the area of youth cultural services include especially the advancement of knowledge about foreign cultures and languages through the study of children and youth books and a promotion of understanding among parents', educators' and teachers' for the significance of literature and reading. In addition, its activities include: sponsorship and further education for German and non-German professionals, advice to authors, illustrators, publishers, translators, editors, booksellers, librarians, teachers and other multipliers of children and youth literature. IJB makes a major contribution to the international information exchange on children and youth literature by offering places for student librarians and scholarship recipients.

Its lending library has approximately 25,000 books in 13 languages which are lent to children and young people. It also offers a rich programme of events: language and drawing courses, story-telling afternoons, play and handicraft activities and an educational museum programme presenting the reading museums of Michael Ende, James Krüss and Binette Schroeder.
Change of Perspective – Association for Media and Cultural Education

Waldweg 26; D-37073 Göttingen
Tel.: +49 551 487106; Fax: +49 551 487106
E-Mail: blickwechsel@blickwechsel.org; Internet: www.blickwechsel.org

Change of Perspective – Association for Media and Cultural Education – is an institution for media education with a head office in Göttingen and regional offices in Bremen and Hamburg. The association, which has been registered as a non-profit organisation since 1990, organises further education courses for educators and interested individuals (educators, teachers, social educators, students of technical colleges), it carries out media projects with children and young people, organises a co-operation with parents on issues of media education, and prepares teaching materials and publications.

Change of Perspective’s mission therefore is the practical realisation of the manifold activities involved in media education.
Bundesverband Jugend und Film e.V.

Federal Association for Youth and Film

Ostbahnhofstr. 15; D-60314 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 6312723; Fax: +49 69 6312922
E-Mail: mail@bjf.info; Internet: www.bjf.info

The Federal Association for Youth Film and Media Education (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendfilmarbeit und Medienerziehung, BJF) was founded in 1970 and renamed as Federal Association for Youth and Film (BJF) in 1992. Its more than 1,200 members are institutions offering non-commercial film work with children and young people. They include youth centres, control centres, film clubs, student working groups and initiatives but also film experts, media experts and institutions, which are themselves multipliers in cultural youth work.

BJF’s primary objective is to promote children and youth film work in the Federal Republic of Germany. Its activities are based on the conviction, that activities involving film are a form of art and an occasion for communication and thus an indispensable element of the developmental and educational process of children and young people. BJF defines its mission as obtaining and disseminating high-quality national and international films, which it considers to be increasingly rare in commercial cinemas, for non-commercial providers, and to enhance the providers’ media education with these films.

Its activities include the management of the non-commercial film distribution for children and youth films, the organisation of national and international seminars and conferences for children and young people as well as full-time, part-time and voluntary staff involved in children and youth film work, and the annual organisation of the international expert conference for teachers and film workers as well as a “Young filmmakers’ workshop” (Werkstatt für junge Filmer). Specialists receive information on opportunities for the organisation and design of film events for children and young people etc.

Since 1996, the Federal Association offers young filmmakers and videofilm makers the “Young Film Scene in BJF” (Junge Filmszene im BJF) a national information network. Especially for young people between 16 and 26, BJF seminars offer an opportunity to obtain the basic know-how in script writing, camera work, directing, cutting and sound techniques.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
Contact addresses of the 16 Länder associations are available at www.bjf.info.
Bundesweites Schülerfilm- und Videozentrum e.V.

National Film and Video Centre for School Students

Lister Platz 1; D-30163 Hannover
Tel.: +49 511 661102; Fax: +49 511 393025
E-Mail: info@up-and-coming.de; Internet: www.up-and-coming.de

The National Film and Video Centre for School Students was founded in 1981 with the purpose of promoting audiovisual media activities. It works on the assumption that there is a film scene in the Federal Republic of Germany, where young people produce their own films and videos independently of TV, cable and satellite programmes.

The Centre promotes film and video activities by secondary school students and young people up to 27 years in schools and in extracurricular activities. It is a special objective of the Centre to publicise these activities and their results and to foster the general public's understanding for the work and the problems of young filmmakers and video filmmakers.

In further education events, the National Film and Video Centre for School Students organises various projects. In events of several days, the “Film school” (Filmschule) project teaches advanced know-how about the theory, history and practice of film and video media. In 1982, the “National Secondary School Students’ Film Festival” (Bundesweites Schülerfilm Festival) was created in Hanover, and it was extended in 1991 into an international young filmmakers’ competition called “up-and-coming”. This competition is organised every second year and considers itself as a forum for the youngest among the young German and international filmmakers.

In addition to organising the film festival and the associated co-operation with international partners, the National Film and Video Centre for School Students is responsible for a number of other activities to promote young artists. An archive with model films by secondary school students was developed with public funding. All films are available as VHS standard videos. The “Students’ Films” (Schülerfilm) project/teachers’ forum initiates and deepens the exchange of experience among teachers and educators and supports the development of and reflection on media education approaches. The www.deutscher-nachwuchsfilmpreis.de portal offers information for young filmmakers.

The Centre ensures the availability of exemplary film and video works as well as the preparation, implementation and further extension of an international film festival for secondary school students.
European Youth4Media Network e.V.

European Youth4Media Network

Blennostr. 5; D-48155 Münster
Tel.: +49 251 60967–3; Fax: +49 251 60967–77
E-Mail: geschaeftsfuehrung2@bennohaus.info; Internet: www.youth4media.com

The European youth network “European Youth4Media Network” was founded in April 2005. 26 institutions from nine EU countries and seven additional countries in (Eastern) Europe and the Mediterranean are affiliated to the association. The network steadily wins new partners. The network allows young people to actively participate in political events and promotes their communication and media competence both on the local and the European levels. The Network’s initiators consider this as an important step towards active European citizenship in a united Europe.

The association’s European networking activities are oriented towards the following basic objectives: the idea of a democratic Europe, promoting (European) civic thinking among young people, strengthening social cohesion in the EU by developing solidarity and promoting tolerance among young people, promoting mutual understanding, promoting European co-operation in the youth field, equal opportunities, awareness of one’s history and politics, creative media activities and lifelong learning.

To achieve its objectives, the association relies primarily on the young people’s active and independent work with the new media.
Förderverein Deutscher Kinderfilm e.V.

**German Support Association for Children’s Film**

Schloßstr. 1; D-07545 Gera
Tel.: +49 365 8001007; Fax: +49 365 8001007
E-Mail: fdk@kinderfilm-online.de
Internet: www.kinderfilm-online.de, www.foerderverein-kinderfilm.de

With the manifest “Create Films for our Children” (“Schafft Filme für unsere Kinder”), the development of the German Support Association for Children's Film (FDK) began in 1977 and the Association was founded in 1978 as an interest group of directors, producers, distributors, makers of children's cinema, journalists, educators and people interested in children's film.

The Association has made it its goal to create the structural prerequisites for a balanced range of children's films and to promote the production, distribution and showing of good children's films. In addition to advances in film policies, which should generally establish a better position for children's film in Germany, the Support Association carries out the following tasks: consultancy to individuals and institutions who are active or want to become active in the field of children's film; consultancy in the initiation and assessment of film projects, co-operation with expert institutions and people active in the production, distribution and showing of films; monitoring of the children's film situation, collecting and archiving information and reports on films, children's cinema initiatives, film promotion and festivals; publication of information.

The Association carries out model projects and holds events to support the public relations of children's film and increase the quality in children's film production. One ongoing project is the Internet platform www.kinderfilm-online.de. Furthermore, the Association acts as a provider of the Academy for Children's Media (Akademie für Kindermedien, www.akademie-kindermedien.de), which – with its further training of authors – has the specific purpose of developing subjects for children's film for a lasting professionalisation of children's film media jobs in Germany, and particularly for the production of sophisticated children and youth media projects with a maximum convergence and networking of various forms of media.

The extensive range of services is intended for the industry, parents and children.
Gesellschaft für Medienpädagogik und Kommunikationskultur in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.

Association for Media Education and Communication Culture in the Federal Republic of Germany

Körnerstr. 3; D-33602 Bielefeld
Tel.: +49 521 67788; Fax: +49 521 67727
E-Mail: gmk@medienpaed.de; Internet: www.gmk-net.de

The Association for Media Education and Communication Culture in the Federal Republic of Germany (GMK) is an association for institutions and individuals and a forum for discussion, co-operation and new initiatives in Germany and Europe in the field of media education, and recognised voluntary youth service provider.

The GMK was founded in 1984, as a nationwide federation of experts from the areas of education, culture, and media. It promotes media education, media literacy, and the culture of communication in Germany and Europe. The Association's activities centre around the promotion of media literacy in every area of society. The globalisation of the media market, the broad range of media offerings, and new information and communication technologies afford new opportunities, but also bear risks for the media users. Consequently, it is an important goal for the Association to actively involve all groups of society in the public communication process. Media should meet the cultural and communicative requirements and interests of adults, adolescents and children alike.

GMK promotes competent media use in all areas of society. It links practice, research, and politics, and promotes new ideas and initiatives. It develops, coordinates, tests, and documents activities and training programmes in the field of media education and advances the professionalisation of media education.

GMK issues information and working materials on media education and establishes contact to speakers. It contributes to the political anchorage of media through counselling, expert reports and statements.

GMK's affiliates and employees are active in a variety of committees, panels and boards at national and Länder level. On the international level, the Association co-operates with European projects.

GMK also awards prizes for excellent media education work: the young scientist prize is granted for university graduation theses, the “Dieter-Baacke-Award” is a nationwide award for outstanding media education projects with children, adolescents and families.

Internationales Zentralinstitut für das Jugend- und Bildungsfernsehen (IZI)

International Central Institute for Youth and Educational Television

Rundfunkplatz 1, D-80335 München
Tel.: +49 89 5900–2991; Fax: +49 89 5900–2379
E-Mail: izi@brnet.de; Internet: www.izi.de

The International Central Institute for Youth and Educational Television (IZI) was founded in 1965 and is controlled by the Bayerischer Rundfunk broadcasting station and is supported by the Society for the Promotion of International Youth and Educational Television (Gesellschaft zur Förderung des internationalen Jugend- und Bildungsfernsehen). IZI documents specialist literature, research reports and all kind of information related to the planning, production, use, and effects of children’s television, programmes for adolescents and educational programmes.

IZI maintains a literature database on these topics, conducts studies and research, and arranges international conferences with programme producers, scientists and journalists. In the context of internships, IZI also offers co-operation schemes for writing a Diploma or Master thesis or dissertation, and advisory services. With its work, IZI wishes make a contribution to the illustration and clarification of the cultural role of television for children and adolescents and its role in their everyday lives. On this basis, IZI also wishes to contribute to the discussion on the broadcasting stations’ education mandate and how it can be realised in a contemporary manner, as well as the media’s responsibility towards society.
Since 2001 the Internet ABC has offered specific aids and information on secure Internet handling as the publisher of the website www.internet-abc.de. The advertising-free platform addresses children between the ages of 5 and 12, as well as – in a separate area – parents and educators who can find target-group specific basic knowledge on the Internet. The non-profit association wants to promote the computer and Internet skills of young and old and strengthen the users’ own responsibility.

For children, the website provides pages with the sections “Computer & Internet”, “School and Hobby”, “Games and Fun” and “Voice your opinion and take part”, which ensure a risk-free familiarisation with the Internet. The programmes include an introduction to the basics of the Internet, a test to earn a surf licence, a school subject navigator, games and game tips, an online module to produce your own pictures, a forum, a postcard service and numerous link suggestions. All offers are monitored by an editor and children can get advice from the Internet ABC experts on every topic.

The pages for parents and educators with the sections “News”, “About the Net”, “Take part”, “Teach” and “Youth Welfare” show the World Wide Web with all its possibilities and traps. Articles and news provide tips on secure and worthwhile surfing and enable you to test your own skills. The quarterly newsletter focuses on a topic that is relevant for parents and educators.

Internet-ABC wants to support adults in their role as parents and educators in providing a secure and sensible introduction of children to the Internet – e.g. with recommendations for the use of suitable filter software in order to block risky Internet content on the computer monitor. Furthermore, there is a guide that provides information on how to report illegal content to the relevant supervisory institutions, and there are software directories that –in the form of a positive selection – provide comprehensive information on around 400 games and 200 learning programmes; in addition to an age classification in accordance with the Youth Protection Act (Jugendschutzgesetz), Internet-ABC’s also editors publish some recommendations on this subject.

Especially for educators, there are suggestions of how to playfully teach Internet skills in their work. In addition to information and project presentations, lesson units compiled by experts for primary stage education are developed in co-operation with Schools on the Net (Schulen ans Netz). The children’s pages can be directly used in the lessons.

The project, in which 11 state media agencies are members, works under the patronage of the German UNESCO Commission (Deutsche UNESCO-Kommission e. V.).

MEMBERS
The members of the association can be accessed on its website.
**JFF – Institut für Medienpädagogik in Forschung und Praxis**

**JFF – Institute for Media Research and Media Education**

Pfälzer-Wald-Str. 64; D–81539 München
Tel.: +49 89 68989–0; Fax: +49 89 68989–111
E-Mail: jff@jff.de; Internet: www.jff.de

JFF, the Institute for Media Research and Media Education, was set up in 1949 and explores the media habits of young generations. A special feature of JFF is the dovetailing of research and practice: research results serve as the basis for educational models, and educational practice gives rise to specific research topics.

JFF works with and on all media. It focuses on research on the way how adolescents acquire media skills against the backdrop of personal, socio-cultural and media-related contexts. Major topics are not only the perception, use and evaluation of media, but also the complex processes of media integration into their everyday lives. JFF conducts research in the following areas:

- Research to provide empirically supported knowledge of media skills acquisition by children and young people.
- Expert opinions geared to making available media-teaching knowledge for the discussion of academic, media and educational policies.
- Evaluation of media-education models and services to further the development of media-education concepts.

JFF has a presence in the field of regular education by turning various aspects of media competence into subjects for discussions and by providing ideas for action. The projects offer active work with the media, educational and technical support and joint activities through networking. Active media work is the theoretical and methodological basis for JFF’s practical services following the principle of project-oriented, active and social learning. The services are aimed at enabling children and young people to practice a competent, i.e. self-determined, self-reliant and considered, use of the media by providing access to the media and their communicative and creative potential. They should thus learn to use the media to actively see and analyse the world in which they live, to participate in their societal and social environments and to publish their own ideas and opinions. The service structure guarantees diverse, comprehensive and sustainable media-education.

In its Knowledge Transfer (Wissenstransfer) division, JFF processes the results from media-education research and practice and brings them to the attention of different target groups from the education scene. The division was established in view of providing educators with reliable and practice-oriented ideas and tools in various fields of activity in order to competently guide children in their use of the media and to strengthen their media skills in all respects. The division also assists and supports media producers to develop age-specific media to make children and young people think about the world in which they live.
Kinder- und Jugendfilmzentrum in Deutschland

Children's and Youth Film Centre in Germany

Küppelstein 34, D-42857 Remscheid
Tel.: +49 2191 794233; Fax: +49 2191 794230
E-Mail: info@kjf.de; Internet: www.kjf.de

KJF, the Children's and Youth Film Centre in Germany, was established in 1977 with the idea of setting up a platform for audio-visual communication and production. KJF receives funds from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ) under the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation. The Remscheid Academy for Artistic and Media Education (Akademie Remscheid für musische Bildung und Medienerziehung) is the legal entity running KJF’s activities. KJF is the legal successor of the National Centre for Children's Films and Television of the former GDR (Nationales Zentrums für Kinderfilm und -fernsehen der DDR). A Board of Trustees composed of representatives from the Federal government and the Länder, universities and associations have laid down guidelines for KJF projects.

KJF is a centre for cultural media education with a focus on audio-visual media. It provides information and orientation on different media and creates a space for communication and creativity. Its projects include online services, creativity competitions, film editions as well as concepts and services to impart media competence in order to foster a receptive and productive handling of audio-visual media.

In recent years, its main activities have been the organisation of nationwide competitions, events and projects in the fields of video, photography and multimedia. The aim of KJF is to motivate children and young people to actively determine their every-day media use and develop distinctive artistic forms of expression.

The KJF competitions and their annual Federal Video Festival (Bundesfestival Video) form a platform for media producers to meet, hold dialogues and present high-publicity productions realised by young talents. The organisation also aims at supporting activities on children and youth films particularly by giving their target groups access to quality films (i.e. by acquiring non-commercial film exploitation rights or by buying and distributing children and youth films), by offering consultation and acting as a co-organiser of international festivals and film presentations.

The fact that the organisation provides information and orientation has been particularly appreciated by the users and consumers of media in recent times. They welcome the production of media education tools and regular media recommendations (e.g. information on films for a large audiences or age-related recommendations for DVDs (www.topvideonews.de) or especially recommended film topics.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has tasked KJF to organise and implement the following award ceremonies and competitions: Young Media – German Youth Video Prize (Young Media – Deutscher Jugendvideopreis, DJVP), which is awarded annually; German Youth Photography Award (Deutscher Jugendfoto-preis, DJF), which is awarded every other year; Video of the Generations (Video der Generationen), which invites teams of mixed age and media-active senior citizens and is awarded annually.

Further competitions of a similar nature will be organized as needed.

In co-operation with other organisations, KJF also organises events, promotes the cultural education, continuous education for media professionals working with children
and young people, introduces publications and is involved in model activities to initiate and evaluate media education.

KJF co-operates with other similar national institutions, e.g. the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung, BKJ) and the Federal Association for Youth and Film (Bundesverband Jugend und Film). KJF also represents the Federal Republic of Germany in international federations, e.g. the Centre International du Film pour l’Enfance et la Jeunesse (CIFEJ) in Montreal.
Konferenz der Landesfilmdienste für Jugend- und Erwachsenenbildung in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V.

Conference of the Regional Film Services for Youth and Adult Education in the Federal Republic of Germany

Rheinallee 59; D–53173 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 355002; Fax: +49 228 358269
E-Mail: konferenz@t-online.de; Internet: www.landesfilmdienste.de

The Conference of the Regional Film Services for Youth and Adult Education in the Federal Republic of Germany (KdL) is a non-profit organisation for education and further training of adolescents and adults, and is the national umbrella organisation for the Länder film services.

Its main tasks, apart from fulfilling internal administrative and organisational tasks for the Regional Film Services, are a variety of external tasks for the public. For example, KdL performs a number of tasks related to the procurement of media, licenses, and performance rights. Through the variety of its involvement in exhibitions, film committees, juries, film events and awards, it actively contributes to the development of educational media. KdL regards itself as a service provider for facilities and associations in the fields of education, culture and commerce, as well as for federal and Länder authorities. Moreover, KdL is a likely facilitator in the dialogue on multimedia and new media between politics, society and the economy, that can contribute to setting up and writing out basic conditions for the future of the information society.

In addition to the classic distribution of media on physical data storage media, KdL also offers “StreamingMediaServices”, an internet-based service by which interested parties can access the comprehensive film and video offer directly via a Deutsche Telekom server under www.streamworld.de or the web site www.landesfilmdienste.de. KdL regards it as an important task of future educational work to advance media literacy so that the newly arising potential of audio-visual communication through computer technology is best used. The electronic distribution of digital contents via the Internet will add IT-related tasks to the KdL’s current tasks in the field of traditional media distribution.

The Regional Film Services (LFDs) lend out audio-visual media, provide advice on all questions related to media education, develop programmes and events, develop concepts for media education projects, and organise events with – and about – media. The media loan service covers informational, cultural, and educational media, documentaries, animated and cartoon films, TV plays, short films and feature films, for children, adolescents and adults. The LFDs are members of committees that evaluate media productions and give recommendations. The LFDs place an emphasis on promoting media literacy in terms of the ability to use media actively and critically. Their primary concern is the distribution of educational media for all types of schools and for the extracurricular education of adolescents and adults; they obtain the performance rights for non-commercial performances of all types of media, tests and examines new distribution channels, and develop materials and tools for media education.

REGIONAL FILM SERVICES AND REGIONAL MEDIA SERVICES (LFD/LMD)

You will find the addresses of the Regional Film Services and Regional Media Services at www.landesfilmdienste.de.
The Network for Computer Media Education (CMP-Netz) is an association with nationwide activities. Its foremost objective is the further education of its members in the field of computer media education and quality assurance in its activities. Its members are active as computer media educators throughout Germany and predominantly in Southern Germany. CMP-Netz co-operates with the Josefstal Study Centre for Protestant Youth Work (Studienzentrum für evangelische Jugendarbeit in Josefstal) and the Federal Association of Cultural Education for Protestant Youth (Bundesverband Kulturarbeit in der evangelischen Jugend).
Programme Counselling for Parents

c/o Bayerische Landeszentrale für neue Medien (BLM)
Heinrich-Lübke-Str. 27, D–81737 München
Tel.: +49 89 63808–280; Fax: +49 89 63808–290
E-Mail: herausgeber@flimmo.tv; Internet: www.flimmo.de

The publisher of the FLIMMO programme guide for parents is the non-profit association Programme Counselling for Parents, which was founded in 1996. Affiliates of the association include institutions that contribute their experience in imparting media competence. These include 13 state media companies that are realising their biggest joint media education project in FLIMMO. Furthermore, the association members include the Karl Kübel Foundation for Children and Family (Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie) and the International Central Institute for Youth and Educational Television (Internationales Zentralinstitut für das Jugend- und Bildungsfernsehen – IZI) of the Bayerischer Rundfunk broadcasting station.

FLIMMO watches television with children's eyes and offers practical and scientifically based guidance on current programmes. The programme guide would like to encourage educators to use television education in order to promote the skills of children and aims to mediate between the wishes of the children and the concerns of the parents. The focus is placed on programmes that children from 3 to 13 like watching or with which they come into contact because someone else is watching them. FLIMMO provides short contents of each programme from a child’s eyes and describes what makes children laugh, what fascinates them, what makes them sad, confused or frightened. Furthermore, FLIMMO offers a great deal of texts on children's television experiences and other media education topics.

FLIMMO is available free-of-charge on the Internet at www.flimmo.tv. The printed issue is published three times a year with an annual circulation of more than one million copies. On request, the advertising-free brochure is sent free-of-charge to nationwide nurseries, schools, pharmacies, doctors' practices, church parishes, counselling centres and other institutions. Parents can subscribe to FLIMMO.

MEMBERS

Internationales Zentralinstitut für das Jugend- und Bildungsfernsehen (IZI)
Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie

LAND MEDIA AGENCIES

Landesanstalt für Kommunikation Baden-Württemberg (LfK)
Rotebühlstr. 121, D–70178 Stuttgart,
Tel. +49 711 66991–0, Fax +49 711 66991–11, www.lfk.de

Bayerische Landeszentrale für neue Medien (BLM)
Heinrich-Lübke-Str. 27, D–81737 München,
Tel. +49 89 63808–0; Fax: +49 89 63808–290,
bhm@blm.de, www.bhm.de

Medienanstalt Berlin-Brandenburg (MABB)
Kleine Präsidentenstr. 1, D–10178 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 264967–0, Fax +49 30 264967–90,
mail@mabb.de, www.mabb.de

Bremische Landesmedienanstalt (brema)
Richtweg 14, D–28199 Bremen,
Tel. +49 421 334940, Fax +49 421 323533,
info@bremische-landesmedienanstalt.de,
www.bremische-landesmedienanstalt.de

Medienanstalt Hamburg / Schleswig-Holstein (MA HSH)
Rathausallee 72–76, D–22846 Norderstedt,
Tel. +49 40 369005–0, Fax +49 40 369005–33,
info@ma-hsh.de, www.ma-hsh.de

Landesanstalt für privaten Rundfunk und neue Medien (LPR Hessen)
Wilhelmshöher Allee 262, D–34131 Kassel,
Tel. +49 561 93586–0, Fax +49 561 93586–33,
lpr@lpr-hessen.de, www.lpr-hessen.de

Niedersächsische Landesmedienanstalt für privaten Rundfunk (NLMP)
Seelhorststr. 18, D–30175 Hannover,
Tel. +49 511 28477–0, Fax +49 511 28477–36,
www.nlm.de
4.5 ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CULTURAL EDUCATION

Landesanstalt für Medien (LfM) Nordrhein-Westfalen
Zollhof 2, D–40221 Düsseldorf,
Tel. +49 211 77007-0, Fax +49 211 77007-374,
info@lfm-nrw.de, www.lfm-nrw.de

Landeszentrale für Medien und Kommunikation (LMK)
Rheinland-Pfalz
Turmstr. 8, D–67059 Ludwigshafen,
Tel. +49 621 5202-0, Fax +49 621 5202-152,
mail@lmk-online.de, www.lmk-online.de

Landesmedienanstalt Saarland (LMS) Medienzentrum
Nell-Breuning-Allee, D–66115 Saarbrücken,
Tel. +49 681 38988-0, Fax +49 681 38988-20,
info@lmsaar.de, www.lmsaar.de

Sächsische Landesanstalt für privaten Rundfunk und neue Medien (SLM)
Ferdinand-Lassalle-Str. 21, D–04109 Leipzig,
Tel. +49 341 2259-0, Fax +49 341 2259-199,
info@slm-online.de, www.slm-online.de

Medienanstalt Sachsen-Anhalt (MSA)
Reichardtstr. 9, D–06114 Halle/Saale,
Tel. +49 345 5255-0, Fax +49 345 5255-121,
info@msa-online.de, www.msa-online.de

Thüringer Landesmedienanstalt (TLM)
Steigerstr. 10, D–99096 Erfurt,
Tel. +49 361 21177-0, Fax +49 361 21177-55,
mail@tlm.de, www.tlm.de
SIN – Studio im Netz e.V.

SIN – Studio on the Web

Haus der Medienbildung
Heiglhofstr. 1; D-81377 München
Tel.: +49 89 724677-00, Fax: +49 89 724677-01
E-Mail: sin@sin-net.de; Internet: www.sin-net.de

SIN is a specialist media education facility with nationwide activities. As a recognized non-public provider of youth services, its activities focus on the area of “children, young people and multimedia.

The explosive changes associated with the development and spread of computer technology also fundamentally change our society. They also increasingly affect the whole field of education. As an independent multimedia turntable, SIN addresses the new digital challenges through a practical and critical assessment on the one hand, and disseminates its experience and results to responsible educators and interested individuals on the other.

SIN’s objective is to make the virtual maze of the multimedia world transparent and accessible and to provide impulses to media education and for a meaningful use of digital technologies. For this purpose, it develops, realises, analyses and publishes projects, seminars and teaching aids.

SIN is a new model. Its autonomous concept and structure is the basis for its ability to flexibly and quickly realise innovative multimedia impulses for cultural work with children and young people.
Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend – Deutsche Föderation Junger Chöre und Instrumentalgruppen e.V.

Study Group on Music in Youth – German Federation of Young Choirs and Instrumental Ensembles

Adersheimer Str. 60; D–38304 Wolfenbüttel
Tel.: +49 5331 46016; Fax: +49 5331 43723
E-Mail: AMJMusikinderJugend@t-online.de; Internet: www.amj-musik.de

The Study Group on Music in Youth – German Federation of Young Choirs and Instrumental Ensembles (AMJ) was founded in 1947, and its principal activities concern the extracurricular promotion and cultivation of vocal and instrumental music and related areas of cultural youth work.

Its basic teaching concept is holistic and intended to promote and further develop the whole individual. Its target groups are music lovers and especially those, who are responsible for the musical education and training of young people or who wish to train for such duties.

AMJ is primarily a Choral Association of children and youth choirs. It is a teaching association and organises more than 100 courses annually. These courses allow children, young people, adults and families to jointly participate in musical activities (for a number of years, a particular focus has been on inter-generational activities). Choir conductors, music teachers and other multipliers are given opportunities for further training.

AMJ is especially active in developing its international contacts. It is a central agency for the Franco German Youth Office (Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk) and the German-Polish Youth Office (Deutsch-Polnisches Jugendwerk). AMJ organises several international meetings of young musicians such as the EUROTREFFs, whose individual events unite approx. 1,500 young choir singers and instrumentalists; the 10-day International Youth Chamber Choirs Meeting in Usedom for 250 young persons, the International Youth Music Week during the summer for 100 participants as well as an International Children’s Choir Festival for approx. 900 participants.

AMJ is one of the co-founders of the European Federation of Young Choirs. It plays a major role in designing the choir festival ‘Europa cantat’, which has been organised as a triennial event in a European country since 1961.

LÄNDER AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Through its Länder associations, the Study Group on Music in Youth is represented in the Federal states of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, Northrhine-Westphalia and Schleswig-Holstein.
**Bund Deutscher Zupfmusiker e.V.**

_Federation of German Musicians of Plucked Instruments_

c/o Rüdiger Grambow  
Huulkamp 26; D-22397 Hamburg  
E-Mail: jugend@bdz-online.de, grambow@bdz-online.de  
Internet: www.bdz-online.de

The Federation of German Musicians of Plucked Instruments (BDZ) is a union of playing communities and individuals in the instrument sector of plucked instrument music in the Federal Republic of Germany. It was founded in 1963 with the goal to uphold the tradition of all German plucked instrument music associations. As a recognised specialist association for plucked instruments, BDZ strives to bring together, represent and support all playing communities and people in its instrumental sector. The tasks and goals of BDZ are understanding the instrumental requirements of musicians of plucked instruments and promoting their musical culture.

BDZ fosters and promotes solo and ensemble music-making with guitars and mandolins. It represents its specialist needs to media, authorities and other institutions, particularly to the German Music Council (Deutscher Musikrat), to the individual Land music councils, and to the public. It holds seminars and courses to maintain and promote qualified training and further training. BDZ is organised in Länder associations.

With its own youth organisation, BDZ promotes musical and non-musical youth support. Youth in the Federation of German Musicians of Plucked Instruments (Quot;Jugend im Bund Deutscher Zupfmusiker e.V., JBDZQuot;) is the community of children and young people under 27 in BDZ. It supports co-determination and joint responsibility and carries out all tasks of interdisciplinary youth work and youth education, as well as tasks concerning the musical education of young people. Its interdisciplinary youth work organises programmes for general political, social and musical-cultural education. Its musical youth work focuses on actions to win new recruits and promote music-making in a group. JBDZ participates in the planning and implementation of the German competitions “Youth makes music” (Quot;Jugend musiziertQuot;).
**Bundesbegegnung “Jugend jazzt”**

*National Forum “Youth Plays Jazz”*

c/o Deutscher Musikrat gemeinnützige Projektgesellschaft mbH
Weberstr. 59; D-53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 2091–120; Fax: +49 228 2091–220
E-Mail: jazz@musikrat.de; Internet: www.jugend-jazzt.de

With the National Forum “Youth Plays Jazz”, which first took place in 1997, the German Music Council wishes to highlight and support talented young people within the numerous jazz music instruction schemes for youngsters at music schools, general education schools and music associations. “Youth Plays Jazz” provides an opportunity for young musicians to meet every two years, giving them the chance to perform before a wide audience and the participating instructors. The National Forum is many things at once: a competition, a festival, a stage for young bands, a forum for encounters and discussions and a useful source of contacts and information, while at the same time functioning as a vital avenue for promoting the best young musicians in the field of jazz music in Germany. This promotion is enhanced in particular by a range of supporting measures linked to the National Forum, including production of a CD for prize-winners, participation in jazz workshops and concert sponsorship. After BuJazzo, the National Forum is the second largest national project for young jazz musicians run by the German Music Council (▶ Deutscher Musikrat). Continuous financing is provided by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend), DeutschlandRadio and the respective Länder and host cities. So far, National Forum meetings have taken place in Düsseldorf (1997), Rostock (1999), Erfurt (2001), Bonn (2003), Koblenz (2005) and Halle an der Saale (2007). The 7th National Forum “Youth Plays Jazz” is scheduled to be held in Hanover. Hamburg has applied to host the 2011 meeting.
BuJazzO is the youth jazz orchestra of the Federal Republic of Germany and was founded in 1988 at the initiative of the German Music Council (Deutscher Musikrat). Its goals include promoting qualified, talented young jazz musicians in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Following a selection process, young musicians and singers between the ages of 13 and 24 participate in regular 14-day working sessions, which are held in winter and summer. Peter Herbolzheimer is the artistic and educational director and is supported by internationally renowned jazz instructors. Following the working sessions, a concert orchestra is formed, which appears in guest performances in Germany and abroad. The schedule also includes productions for radio and CDs. BuJazzO is intended to provide tangible and audible expressions of the wide-ranging efforts to support young jazz musicians in Germany, and wishes to play a major role in the youth and school big band scene. It was awarded the German Music Prize in 1997.

The orchestra project is unique at the international level, as many US conductors and instructors have confirmed. Some 400 successful former participants help ensure that “Jazz in Germany” is steadily growing in terms of its international standing and respect. The orchestra has been a springboard for launching the careers of some prospective jazz stars as well as recognized musicians and composers.

BuJazzO is sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend), the Westdeutscher Rundfunk broadcasting station, DaimlerChrysler AG and the Society for the Exploitation of Ancillary Copyrights (Gesellschaft zur Verwertung von Leistungsschutzrechten mbH).
Bundesjugendorchester – Nationales Jugendorchester der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

National Youth Orchestra of the Federal Republic of Germany

c/o Deutscher Musikrat gemeinnützige Projektgesellschaft mbH
Weberstr. 59; D-53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 2091–195; Fax: +49 228 2091–200
E-Mail: bjo@musikrat.de; Internet: www.bundesjugendorchester.de

The National Youth Orchestra (BJO) was formed by the German Music Council in 1969 as the National Youth Orchestra of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The best young musicians between the ages of 14 and 19 can qualify for membership in the BJO with a test performance judged by a professional jury. Many applicants have already made a mark with their excellent performances in Germany’s national music competition for young people, “Youth Makes Music” („Jugend musiziert”). The National Youth Orchestra meets three times a year for intensive working sessions together with a team of instructors and visiting conductors to practise demanding orchestral works from all periods. Following these sessions, the BJO presents its programme at concerts in Germany and abroad.

The BJO has played at numerous events of historical significance. Such highlights include concerts in Israel under the direction of Gary Bertini, memorial concerts for atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1995 or the performance of Verdi’s Requiem in 1997 at the former World War II Nazi concentration camp in Theresienstadt. With the support of the German Foundation for Music, enthusiastic private partners and other sponsors, BJO has undertaken two major tours abroad: in 1998, the “Thank You America!” tour under the direction of Kurt Masur in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, with performances in New York, Washington, Boston and Berlin; and in the summer of 2000, the BJO toured Poland with the slogan “Poland and Germany – together in the heart of Europe” under the direction of Gerd Albrecht. In 2005, the BJO participated in the “German Year in Japan”, and in 2006, it took part in co-operation concerts in Venezuela. During the German presidency of the EU Council, the Orchestra gave guest performances in London and in many cities in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

The BJO is supported by the German Music Council Non-Profit Project Company (Deutscher Musikrat gemeinnützige Projektgesellschaft mbH), the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend), DaimlerChrysler AG, the Westdeutscher Rundfunk broadcasting station (WDR) and the German Orchestra Association (Deutsche Orchestervereinigung).
Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Orchesterverbände e.V.

German Union of Orchestra Associations

Rudolf-Maschke-Platz 6; D–78647 Trossingen
Tel.: +49 7425 8312; Fax: +49 7425 21519
E-Mail: info@orchesterverbaende.de; Internet: www.orchesterverbaende.de

The German Union of Orchestra Associations (BDO), which has existed since 1956, is the umbrella organisation of instrumental laymen's music in Germany. It is a union of 11 Federal associations with around 1.6 million people who are involved in a total of 23,200 orchestras. BDO's main goal is to activate the music-making of wide sections of the population, to influence the general conditions necessary for this goal and to strengthen the public perception of orchestras. BDO is particularly dedicated to extracurricular music-making of youths, as it strongly believes that music is particularly valuable for children and young people.

BDO is active in the following fields of activity: it checks the applications for the granting of the “Pro Musica” badge and organises the central German event for the award of the “Pro Musica” and “Zelter” badges, which are endowed by the Bundespräsident (German Federal President). BDO organises nationwide, inter-association projects, e.g. competitions for selected orchestras and forums on current topics. Furthermore, it promotes courses and work conferences with funding from the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes), e.g. for the continued and further education of heads and conductors of youth ensembles. BDO’s tasks also include advising political committees, networking the existing knowledge in a national and European context and co-operating with other umbrella associations and organisations, particularly in cultural youth education. BDO provides information on jointly represented cultural policy and economic matters of the instrumental music-making of laymen, carries out public relations in this field and represents instrumental laymen's music in the committees of other associations and institutions.

MEMBERS ASSOCIATIONS

Bund Deutscher Blasmusikverbände e.V.
Alois-Schnorr-Str. 10, D–79219 Staufen,
Tel. +49 7633 9299444,
info@blasmusikverbaende.de,
www.blasmusikverbaende.de

Bund Deutscher Zupfmusiker e.V.
Bund für Zupf- und Volksmusik Saar
Auf der Hardt 31, D–66830 Siersburg,
Tel. +49 6835 93966,
Fax +49 6835 93968,
geschaeftsstelle@bzvs-online.de,
www.bzvs-online.de

Bund Saarländischer Musikvereine
Trierer Str. 14, D–66839 Schmelz,
Tel. +49 6887 76378,
Fax +49 6887 7639,
info@saarlmusikvereine.de,
www.saarlmusikvereine.de

Bundesverband Deutscher Liebhaberorchester e.V.
Berggartenstr. 11, D–01277 Dresden,
Tel. +49 351 8104238,
bdlo@bdlo.de, www.bdlo.de

Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Musikverbände
König-Karl-Str. 13, D–70372 Stuttgart,
Tel. +49 711 672112-70,
info@bdmv-online.de, www.bdbv-online.de

Deutscher Akkordeonlehrer-Verband e.V.
Postfach 1135, D–78635 Trossingen,
Tel. +49 7425 20212,
vorstand@dalv-online.de, www.dalv-online.de

Deutscher Bundesverband der Spielmanns-, Fanfaren-, Hörner- und Musikzüge e.V.
Otto-Suhr-Ring 29, D–55252 Mainz,
Tel. +49 6134 3140,
www.dbv-musik.com

Deutscher Harmonika-Verband e.V.
Rudolf-Maschke-Platz 6, D–78647 Trossingen,
Tel. +49 7425 326645,
info@dhv-ev.de, www.dhv-ev.de
### 4.6 ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CULTURAL EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deutscher Turnerbund e.V., Fachgebiet Musik und Spielmannswesen</td>
<td>c/o Bundesmusikschule, Sonnenberg 10, D–37581 Bad Gandersheim, Tel. +49 5382 95690, <a href="mailto:info@turner-musik-akademie.de">info@turner-musik-akademie.de</a>, <a href="http://www.turner-musik-akademie.de">www.turner-musik-akademie.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deutscher Zithermusik-Bund e.V.</td>
<td>Oberreiterweg 7A, D–83661 Lenggries, Tel. +49 8042 973063, <a href="mailto:info@zitherbund.de">info@zitherbund.de</a>, <a href="http://www.zitherbund.de">www.zitherbund.de</a></td>
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Deutscher Musikrat gemeinnützige Projektgesellschaft mbH

German Music Council Non-Profit Project Company

Weberstr. 59, D–53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 2091–0; Fax: +49 228 2091–200
E-Mail: info@musikrat.de; Internet: www.musikrat.de

The German Music Council Non-Profit Project Company maintains a variety of different programmes to promote music. The Company gives permanent support to contemporary music-making.

The German Music Council Project Company was founded in September 2003. The main idea was to unite all the different music promotion projects, which had previously been allocated to the German Music Council, under the umbrella of one independent non-profit company whose sole proprietor is the German Music Council. The German Music Council represents roughly 8 million Germans who make music professionally or as amateurs. The two organisations – Project Company and Council – together form the German Music Council, whose patron is the German Bundespräsident.

For more than 50 years, the projects have been an important basis for the development of music in Germany. Through the “German Music Contest” (Deutscher Musikwettbewerb), a music competition with a long tradition, the German Music Council sponsors young professional musicians at the beginning of their career. The “Conductors’ Forum” (Dirigentenforum) was introduced for young conductors, and the “PopCamp” is the latest project of the company for musicians from the pop and rock music scenes.

The “Youth Makes Music” (Jugend musiziert) contest, the National Youth Orchestra of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesjugendorchester), the Youth Jazz Orchestra of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesjugendjazzorchester), the national “Youth Makes Jazz” (Jugend jazzt) contest, and the “SchoolJam” (SchoolJam) competition of school bands set standards for the promotion of young musical talent. Amateur choirs and orchestras compete in the German Choir Competition and German Orchestra Competition, which take place alternately every four years.

Moreover, the Project engages in a great deal of activity for the promotion of contemporary music. The “Concert of the German Music Council” tries to raise awareness for contemporary music, the CD editions “Edition of Contemporary Music” (Edition Zeitgenössische Musik) and “Music in Germany 1950–2000” are documentations of music-making in Germany.

The Project Company also has an emphasis on activities outside Germany. In addition the German-Polish music exchange (Deutsch-Polnische Musikbörse), which provides information on the development and culture of music in the regions of the two countries, a European Ensemble Academy (Europäische Ensemble-Akademie) was launched in 2007 – a tri-national concert project, that connects pop music, jazz, and contemporary music.

Another important area of the Project Company’s work is the field of information and documentation. The German Music Information Centre (Deutsches Musikinformationszentrum) gathers information on all aspects of musical life, from musical education and training to amateur and professional music-making to event organisation and the music business media.
Europa Cantat – Europäische Föderation Junger Chöre e.V.

Europa Cantat – European Federation of Young Choirs

Webestr. 59 a; D-53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 91256-63; Fax: +49 228 91256-58
E-Mail: info@europacantat.org; Internet: www.europacantat.org

Europa Cantat – European Federation of Young Choirs, was founded in 1960 by “A Coeur Joie”, the “Working Group on Music in Youth (Arbeitskreis Musik in der Jugend)” and choir conductors from six European countries.

Meanwhile, the Federation has 42 affiliated choir associations, approx. 220 choirs and more than 330 individual members from all of Europe (and overseas). Over the past 45 years, it has hosted more than 150 International Singers’ Weeks, courses for choir conductors and 16 “EUROPA CANTAT” Festivals. A long time before the new political developments in Central and Eastern Europe, Europa Cantat established close relations between East and West and thus made a major contribution towards exchanging information and promoting encounters between choirs.

On the level of European integration, Europa Cantat’s activities contribute to mutual understanding between young people of various countries, their music, their language and their cultural life.

Its main activities include the “EUROPA CANTAT” Festival, which is organised every third year in a different country, and the International Singers’ Weeks, where choirs and individual participants are invited to study choir music from various times and all regions of Europe. The studied works range from ‘a capella’ pieces to oratorias and are performed in a concert setting. In close co-operation with its affiliated organisations, Europa Cantat organises international study tours for choir conductors. Every third year, it also hosts the EC Junior Festivals for children’s and youth choirs.

Since summer 2002, Europa Cantat has co-operated in the world youth choir project with the Jeunesses Musicales Association and the International Federation for Choral Music. In this project, selected singers meet for two rehearsal sessions per year. And Europa Cantat organises the annual European Academy for Young Conductors, which focuses on educational and teaching aspects.

For a number of years, young choir singers have been supported by the Noel Minet Fund. The Fund also awards scholarships and prizes.

The major objective of all musical activities is to promote amateur choirs in Europe in view of reaching the highest professional standard, while teaching and educational aspects are given maximum consideration.

Europa Cantat is affiliated to the International Music Council of UNESCO and the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM).

MEMBERS

At present, 42 choir associations, approx. 220 choirs and more than 330 individuals from all of Europe (and overseas) are affiliated to Europa Cantat – European Federation of Young Choirs. Contact details are available at www.europacantat.org.
Internationaler Arbeitskreis für Musik e. V.

International Society for Music

Am Kloster 1A; D–49565 Bramsche-Malgarten
Tel.: +49 5461 9963–0; Fax: +49 5461 9963–10
E-Mail: iamev@t-online.de; Internet: www.iam-ev.de

music.yourself.together. – this is the motto of the International Society for Music (iam), which was founded in 1948. With more than 60 music courses in Germany and Europe each year, targeted at (amateur) musicians of every age, the Society is one of Germany’s three largest non-commercial providers.

The courses range from playing the recorder to making instruments, from ancient music to chamber music, from courses for cellists to courses for late starters and returners, to courses that enable older people or people with only basic skills to experience playing in an orchestra and music weeks for pupils, young people, families, orchestras and choirs. The courses are open to anyone, but members of the society benefit from reduced course prices.

The course lecturers normally have many years of experience in the musical instruction of amateur musicians.

The International Society for Music is, among others, member of the following organisations: Working Group of German Choir Associations (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Chorverbände, adc), the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung) and the German Music Council (Deutscher Musikrat) and nearly all the Länder music councils.

A part of the courses is sponsored with project funds from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

iam is represented through a Länder association in Baden-Württemberg. Other Länder associations are currently being established. Please contact the iam office for details.
Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland e. V.

Association of Young German Instrumentalists

Marktplatz 12; D-97990 Weikersheim
Tel.: +49 7934 9936-0; Fax: +49 7934 9936-40
E-Mail: weikersheim@jeunessesmusicales.de
Internet: www.jeunessesmusicales.de

The Association of Young German Instrumentalists (JMD) is the German section of the “Jeunesses Musicales International” global youth association, also referred to as the “United Nations of Music”. The global association was founded towards the end of World War II in Belgium and France in order to promote international encounters between young people through music and thus make a contribution for more international understanding. The association has partners in about 60 countries.

As an umbrella organisation with more than 200 member ensembles, JMD offers extensive services to German youth orchestras, represents their interests in national and international committees and establishes contacts around the world. The Association is organised on a national scale, with activities at Länder or regional level in almost all of the Länder.

It organises over 90 courses and projects for children and adolescents that take an interest in Music in Germany and abroad each year; the JMD is also the sponsor of the national “Secondary School Students Compose” contest and develops German elite musicians. The international opera course at Schloss Weikersheim and the international chamber music course are examples of JMD's work with young musical talents. JMD places an emphasis on contemporary music in its work with young composers.

JMD also encourages young musicians to build international contacts in projects of their own, and supports other event organisers in their exchange projects. It is the central organ of the Franco-German Youth Office (Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk), and is particularly committed to the exchange with Central and Eastern European countries. For several years now, it has also increased its involvement in Latin America.

In 2000, JMD founded the “Concerts for Kids” initiative, which gave an impulse to enliven the world of concerts with more – and better – concerts for children. The initiative’s successor from 2007 is the “young ears network” (netzwerk junge ohren).

The Schloss Weikersheim Music Academy is the “World Meeting Center of Jeunesse Musicales International”, and a meeting point for international conferences and young musicians from around the world. The city of Weikersheim, which the JMD entrusted with the management of the Academy, is also the sponsor of the music academy. The Music Academy’s address is: Marktplatz 12, D-97990 Weikersheim, Tel.: +49 7934 993611, Fax: +49 7931 993630, musikakademie@jeunessesmusicales.de, www.weikersheim.de.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

Jeunesses Musicales has 14 Länder associations across Germany (excluding Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland). For contact addresses, please refer to www.jeunessesmusicales.de aufgerufen.
The annual Youth Makes Music competition was held for the first time in 1963. It is a motivation to make music, encourages young musical talent and also serves to spot and find musical talents early. The competition is held at regional, Länder, and nationwide level for certain instruments and singing. “Youth Makes Music” is one of the most successful projects of musical youth education in Germany. Meanwhile, more than 19,000 children and young people take part in the contest.

Children and adolescents are afforded an opportunity to show their skill and talent individually and playing together with others, and give an example of making music together in schools, families and communities, in youth groups or their circle of friends. Young people who are already working and play music in their spare time are also encouraged to take part. The Youth Makes Music competition is open to children and musicians up to 21 years of age - unless they are training to be professional musicians, as Youth Makes Music is an amateur contest.

The winners of the regional contests take part in the competitions at Länder level. Länder award winners are then invited to the national contest. Certificates and prizes are awarded in every phase of the contest. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ) awards the prize for best performance in the national contest. In addition, private foundations provide grants. The BMFSFJ, the Länder, local head organisations and communities support the competitions under the leadership of the German Music Council (Deutscher Musikrat). The Sparkassen finance group is the main sponsor. The competitions are organised by the following associations: National Federation of Orchestra Associations (Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Orchesterverbände), Association of German Musicians (Deutscher Tonkünstlerverband, DTKV), Association of Young German Instrumentalists (Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland), Association of German Music Schools (Verband Deutscher Schulmusiker, VDS) in co-operation with the Association of Church Choirs in Germany (Allgemeiner Cäcilien-Verband in Deutschland) and the Association of Protestant Church Musicians in Germany (Verband evangelischer Kirchenmusikerinnen und Kirchenmusiker in Deutschland).
SchoolJam – bundesweites Schülerbandfestival

SchoolJam – Nationwide School Band Festival

c/o Deutscher Musikrat gemeinnützige Projektgesellschaft mbH
Weberstr. 59; D–53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 2091–123; Fax: +49 228 2091–200
E-Mail: pop@musikrat.de; Internet: www.musikrat.de/schooljam

The “SchoolJam” nationwide School Band Festival took place for the first time in 2002/2003, and has set itself the target of motivating school students to make music and to raise the importance assigned to the teaching of music in general education schools as well as its attractiveness. To promote this goal, SchoolJam offers a variety of activities in addition to regular music courses, such as Rock/Pop workshops, and offers bands whose members are pupils at secondary schools (grades 5 – 13) an opportunity to take part in the SchoolJam festival. Each band can submit a title, be it a cover version of an existing song or a title of their own, and has the chance of performing to an expert jury live on stage at the “Regio-Finals”, where the bands can win live performances at big open air festivals, band tours through Germany or abroad, or professional recording sessions in a studio. The National Expert Committee for Popular Music (Bundesfachausschuss für Populäre Musik) of the German Music Council (Deutscher Musikrat) is a consultant to the project. Since 2006, the festival has been funded by the Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend).
Verband deutscher Musikschulen e.V.

Association of German Music Schools

Plittersdorfer Str. 93; D-53173 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 95706–0; Fax: +49 228 95706–33
E-Mail: vdm@musikschulen.de; Internet: www.musikschulen.de

Founded 1952, the Association of German Music Schools (VdM) is the specialist and support association of around 950 public non-profit music schools in Germany, which work in more than 4,000 locations nationwide. It wants to contribute to the promotion and development of vocal and instrumental music-making and musical education and strives to achieve a co-operation of all forces that work for the establishment and promotion of music schools. More than one million children, young people and adults are taught in around 950 music schools by more than 35,000 qualified teachers.

As a member of VdM, the public music schools work in accordance with the guidelines and basic lesson plans, as well as the structure plan of VdM, and offer a wide range of lessons for all age groups. Their offers include individual, group and class lessons, bands and ensembles of all kinds. The music schools are dedicated to the promotion of music in the population at large and the promotion of the gifted, as well as a possible preparation for a vocational degree. With around 79,000 public events a year, the music schools play an important role in the formation of nationally lively music-making.

As a specialist and support association, the tasks of the VdM include the counselling of music schools and their providers in all matters of planning and organisation, the perception and support of joint needs of music schools with authorities, as well as professional associations and organisations of German and international music-making and public relations. Its tasks also include the development and implementation of continued and further education concepts for music school teachers by model trials, the devising and provision of the structure plan for music schools, as well as the basic lesson plan for the various subjects, the holding of music school congresses, courses and conferences, the provision of quality management instruments for music schools, the stimulation of exchanges of music groups, the mediation of contacts, including those with other countries, as well as ensuring financial subsidies for international youth meetings of music school ensembles.

VdM is a recognised provider of voluntary youth welfare and is supported by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ) from the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes). Furthermore, it is a provider of the German String Philharmonic (Deutsche Streicherphilharmonie, DSP) and the media prize “LEOPOLD – Good Music for Children”, which is also supported by the BMFSFJ.

MUSIC SCHOOLS
Around 950 music schools in Germany. Contact addresses are available at www.musikschulen.de.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
The Association of German Music Schools is represented in all 16 Länder by land associations of the music schools. The addresses are available at www.musikschulen.de.

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Werkgemeinschaft Musik e. V.

Association for Music

Geschäftsstelle im Jugendhaus Düsseldorf
Carl-Mosterts-Platz 1; D–40477 Düsseldorf
Tel.: +49 211 4693–191; Fax: +49 211 4693–159
E-Mail: geschaeftsstelle@werkgemeinschaft-musik.de
Internet: www.werkgemeinschaft-musik.de

The Association for Music was founded in 1946 and works ecumenically by organising conferences and activity weeks at national level, principally to encourage the musical education of young Catholics in an extracurricular setting. At national and Land level, it is represented on the committees for promoting cultural and musical education.

The work of the Association concentrates on the areas of song, choral and instrumental music, it devotes particular attention to music in religious services. This is based on the underlying conviction that religious beliefs add important impulses and motivation to any form of education. The Association takes an ecumenical approach with a continuous reflection on its own position.

The events it holds are intended for anyone interested in music, music teachers, youth leaders, and staff responsible for pastoral and parish services. The courses include choral singing, playing instruments, teaching music, music in religious services, conducting ensembles, song, dance and play.
ASSITEJ Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V. (Internationale Vereinigung des Theaters für Kinder und Jugendliche)

ASSITEJ – Federal Republic of Germany Section, International Association of Theatres for Children and Youth

Schützenstr. 12; D–60311 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 296661; Fax: +49 69 292354
E-Mail: zentrum@kjtz.de; Internet: www.kjtz.de

ASSITEJ is the International Association of Theatres for Children and Youth with 85 national centres on all continents. It was founded in 1965. ASSITEJ – Federal Republic of Germany Section is a registered non-profit association and acts as the German national association of professional theatres for children and young people.

The German ASSITEJ section – this means approximately 360 members, 140 of which are professional theatres for children and youth working as independent theatres, divisions of state, local and Länder theatres, free theatres and private theatres, and publishing houses, and associations and organisations working for child and youth theatre and defending their interests. In addition theatre makers, scientists, journalists and teachers support the association with their membership.

The fundamental objective of ASSITEJ – Federal Republic of Germany Section is to enhance the weight of theatres for children and young people in cultural policy, to monitor and reflect artistic developments and tendencies on the national and international level and to promote them by conferences, seminars, theatre meetings and symposia. In addition to arranging and maintaining national and international contacts, the Association’s tasks also include a co-operation with international festivals and the organisation of bilateral and multilateral exchange programmes.

Another very important field of action for ASSITEJ – Federal Republic of Germany Section is the representation of the culture policy interests of professional theatres for children and young people vis-à-vis political decision-makers on all levels. The Association also represents these interests in the German Culture Board (Deutscher Kulturrat) in the Council for the Performing Arts (Rat für Darstellende Künste) and in the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung). In order to strengthen regional theatres for children and young people, the Association works in close co-operation with the Länder Working Groups for Children and Youth Theatres (Arbeitsgemeinschaften für Kinder- und Jugendtheater in den Bundesländern).

ASSITEJ – Federal Republic of Germany Section is a recognized youth service provider and is funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) under the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes). ASSITEJ – Federal Republic of Germany Section has also acted as the legal representative of the Child and Youth Theatre Centre in the Federal Republic of Germany (Kinder- und Jugendtheater in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland).
Jugendtheaterzentrum in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland) since the latter's foundation in 1989.

**MEMBERS**
360 full and associate members, 140 professional theatres for children and youth, institutions, organisations and associations, theatrical publishing houses and individuals.
**Federation of German Amateur Theatres**

Steinheimer Str. 7/1; D-89518 Heidenheim  
Tel.: +49 7321 9469900; Fax: +49 7321 48341  
E-Mail: bdat-@t-online.de; Internet: www.bdat.info

The Federation of German Amateur Theatres (BDAT) was founded in 1892 as the Association of Private Theatre Clubs in Germany. As a recognized and funded umbrella organisation for organised German amateur theatre, BDAT represents the interests of its members. More than 2,200 amateur theatre groups, of which approximately 400 are children and youth theatre groups, have joined the umbrella organisation through Länder associations and organisations. As an active cultural Association, BDAT is oriented towards current artistic activities and objectives and sociopolitical changes and trends while giving consideration to established traditions.

BDAT represents the interests of its members vis-à-vis politics, culture and society; it develops the content of amateur theatre by introducing new concepts and innovative projects, and it enhances its quality by offering training and seminars as well as PR activities. Its other activities include the promotion of child and youth theatre and support for the theatrical activities of senior citizens.

BDAT offers a service programme to its affiliated organisations and the actors involved in theatre clubs, and offers support in all artistic, organisational, administrative, legal concerns of its member clubs. They also get professional advice in all areas of the performing arts, bonuses for insurance policies and project grants, training for amateur players, directors, theatre technology and education.

**MEMBERS**

BDAT’s membership includes 16 Länder associations and the Association of German Open Air Theatres (Verband Deutscher Freilichtbühnen) as well as the Working Group of Franconian Dialect Theatres (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Mundart-Theater-Franken). Contact details are available at [www.bdat.info](http://www.bdat.info).
**Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Spiel und Theater e.V.**

*Federal Working Group on Drama and Theatre*

Simrockstr. 8, D–30171 Hannover  
Tel.: +49 511 458 1799; Fax: +49 511 458 3105  
E-Mail: info@bag-online.de; Internet: www.bag-online.de

The Federal Working Group on Drama and Theatre was founded in 1953 and is the umbrella organisation for amateur theatres, drama and theatres for children and young people in schools and out-of-school, theatre education theory in theatres and cultural centres, and the teaching of theatre education at universities and polytechnics. As a professional association, it provides a network for more intensive exchange of opinion among professionals for theatre education theory and practice.

The activities and mission of the Federal Working Group on Drama and Theatre include the professional consultation on funding issues as well as the organisation of projects and speakers. It also offers qualified training and further education, has designed a training curriculum in theatre education, and is one of the co-initiators of the theatre education curricula at the universities of Hildesheim and Hanover as well as the Academy of Plastic Arts in Brunswick.

At the national and international level, the Federal Working Group on Drama and Theatre hosts programmes for specific target groups (e.g. theatre for and with children and young people with a migration background) and intercultural, development-related encounters (e.g. country programmes with Turkey, Morocco, Ghana, Russia). It organises festivals and expert conferences for multipliers and is involved in model projects in Germany and abroad.

The Federal Working Group on Drama and Theatre receives funding from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend).

**MEMBERS**

- Akademie Remscheid für musische Bildung und Medienerziehung e.V.
- Arbeitskreis der Landesarbeitsgemeinschaften Spiel & Theater e.V.  
  Simrockstr. 8, D–30171 Hannover,  
  Tel.: +49 511 458–1799; Fax: +49 511 458–3105
- Arbeitskreis Kirche und Theater in der EKD e.V.  
  Simrockstr. 8, D–30171 Hannover,  
  Tel.: +49 511 458–1799; Fax: +49 511 458–3105,  
  hoffmann@bag-online.de,  
  www.theaterundkirche.de
- Bundesverband Darstellendes Spiel e.V.
- Bundesverband Kulturarbeit in der evangelischen Jugend e.V.
- Bundesverband Theaterpädagogik e.V.
- Burckhardthaus – Evangelisches Institut für Jugend-, Kultur- und Sozialarbeit e.V.
- Cagdas Drama Derneği (Türkischer Verein für Kreatives Drama)  
  www.yaraticidrama.org.tr
- Gesellschaft für Theaterpädagogik e.V.  
  Siegelinestr. 5, D–12159 Berlin,  
  Tel.: +49 30 8516153; Fax: +49 30 2166411
- Göppinger Theatertage  
  Landratsamt Göppingen – Kreisjugendamt,  
  Lorcher Str. 6, D–73033 Göppingen,  
  Tel.: +49 7161 202–652, 621; Fax: +49 7161 202–649,  
  kreisjugendamt@landkreis-goeppingen.de,  
  www.landkreis-goeppingen.de
- Internationale Bildungsstätte Jugendhof Scheersberg  
  Scheersberg, D–24972 Quern,  
  Tel.: +49 4632 8480–0; Fax: +49 4632 848030,  
  info@scheersberg.de, www.scheersberg.de
- Katholische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Spiel und Theater e.V.  
  Ständige Konferenz Spiel und Theater  
  c/o Hochschule Zittau/Görlitz,  
  Postfach 300648, D–02811 Görlitz
- Theaterwoche Korbach,  
  Landkreis Waldeck-Frankenberg,  
  Südring 2, 34497 Korbach,  
  Tel.: +49 5631 921639, Fax: +49 5631 954380
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Spielmobile e.V.

Federal Association of Mobile Play

c/o Spiellandschaft Stadt e.V.
Albrechtstr. 37; D–80636 München
Tel.: +49 89 127996–67; Fax: +49 89 127996–68
E-Mail: bag@spielmobile.de; Internet: www.spielmobile.de

The Federal Association of Mobile Play was founded in 1992 and is a national working group of experts, providers and expert organisations with an international orientation. It supports the ideas of mobile play and the providers of mobile play units by collecting and distributing information and providing consultancy services. Its work is intensified and enhanced by networking these organisations and developing co-operations on the national and international level. An important element of quality assurance for its mobile work is in the area of further education and continuous education. For this purpose, the Federal Association of Mobile Play offers qualification seminars and supports expert events on the regional or Länder levels. It hosts seminars on specific issues and organises expert speakers. It initiates plans and implements mobile play projects. These services include consultancy on conceptual and financial matters, scientific support, the arrangement of expert qualifications and mobile play work. The Federal Association of Mobile Play is the publisher of its own series of materials on mobile play and conducts active lobbying and public relations activities, where it presents the principles of mobile play to politicians, administrators and other areas of society.

MEMBERS

At present, the Federal Association of Mobile Play has 125 members. They are mobile play units run by local authorities or non-statutory providers. Contact details of mobile play units are available through the Association’s national office.
**Bundesverband Darstellendes Spiel e.V.**

National Association for Drama/Theatre in Education

Hammarskjöldring 17A; D–60439 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 212320–44; Fax: +49 69 212320–70
E-Mail: mail@schultheater.de; Internet: www.bvds.org

The National Association for Drama/Theatre in Education (BDVS) was founded in 1981 as a merger of the Länder Working Parties for Drama and School Theatre (Landesarbeitsgemeinschaften für Darstellendes Spiel und Schultheater), which were active in the Länder.

BDVS is committed to the musical/aesthetic dimension of cultural education. It advocates exchange and co-operation with schools and extracurricular institutions, which expose young people to experience and action in the sensual/aesthetic domain and enable them to grow up as self-confident individuals in an environment of dynamic media. Aesthetic education makes a crucial contribution to holistic learning. For this reason, BDVS works for innovation in schools.

BDVS wants to create appropriate room in school curricula and in framework guidelines and in the educational realities of our schools for drama and theatre, which is to be given its proper significance for the education and personal development of young people and adolescents. Its objective is to establish the organisational and curricular prerequisites for “drama” as a subject in lower and upper secondary education. In this context, it considers itself as a forum for a modern development of drama teaching/education and drama practice in schools.

The appropriate types of acting/drama for secondary school students are considered as an authentic expression of today’s child and youth culture and are promoted in further education events, workshops, school drama festivals and expert meetings. BDVS defends the educational and artistic objectives of school drama vis-à-vis schools, public authorities and institutions. It also regards the qualification of directors, multipliers as one of its primary responsibilities, and in this context, it advocates the introduction of “drama” as a study course at universities and colleges. In-service training and further education must be ensured and further developed.

In addition, BDVS sponsors meetings of school drama directors and school drama groups across state or national borders. It organises an annual meeting of school theatre groups from all Federal states – the “Länder School Theatres Meeting”.

**LÄNDER WORKING PARTIES**

16 Länder Working Parties for Drama and School Theatre from all over Germany have joined forces in the National Association for Drama/Theatre in Education (BAG DS). Contact addresses are available at www.bagds.de.
The Federal Association for Theatre Education (BuT) was founded in 1990 as a specialist association for theatre education with members from all fields of work of theatre education – both institutions and individuals.

The Association’s central purpose is to promote theatre education as an independent sector of cultural education. At the same time, BuT’s work supports the increasing professionalisation of the “young” discipline of theatre education in training and practice. BuT’s focus is the promotion of theatre education practice through expert exchanges – in the form of conferences, work meetings, discussion forums, member newsletters – with the further education programme “Multiplik” and publications. By means of a modular training concept for theatre educators, it is actively involved in vocational training. Its aim is to enable a better comparability of theatre education qualifications and thus ensure a high level of training. BuT organises the annual Federal Conference on Theatre Education (Bundestagung Theaterpädagogik), which acts as an open forum for discussion and self-reflection among members and non-members. The expert spring conference is intended for the internal, specialist exchange of members. The annual Federal meeting “Youth Clubs at Theatres” (Jugendclubs an Theatern) is the nationwide work meeting of young persons involved in theatre and acting clubs at professional theatres.

At present, BuT is one of the cooperation partners of the Children and Youth Theatre Centre in the Federal Republic of Germany (Kinder- und Jugendtheaterzentrums in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland) in a project on “Children who act”. BuT co-operates in the following higher associations and institutions: in the Federal Working Group on Drama and Theatre (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Spiel und Theater), in the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung), in the German Cultural Council (Deutscher Kulturrat), in the National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany (National Coalition für die Umsetzung der UN-Kinderrechtskonvention in Deutschland) and in the Paritätisches Bildungswerk – Federal Association (Paritätisches Bildungswerk).

MEMBERS
The list of affiliated institutions is available at the office. The following institution is also a member:

Akademie Remscheid für musische Bildung und Medienerziehung e.V.
The Catholic Association for Play and Theatre (KAST) was established in 1948. Its objective is to promote all forms of drama and specifically of acting in the framework of cultural youth education. KAST is a free union of individuals addressing and promoting the diverse forms of drama and acting by amateurs. This also involves the promotion of drama in its community-building role and the interaction at festivals and celebrations.

KAST’s activities include the organisation of courses for directors and amateur players, the “Forum” Theatre week, national workshops, the arrangement of speakers on “Drama and theatre” subjects, drama consultancy. Every year, KAST is the host of “FORUM”, the Theatre week, where diverse forms and acting/drama techniques are trained, experiments are made and put ‘on stage’.

KAST is affiliated to the Federal Working Group for Drama and Theatre (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Spiel und Theater), the Catholic Federal Association for Adult Education (Katholische Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Erwachsenenbildung, KBE) and the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung).
Kinder- und Jugendtheaterzentrum in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Children’s and Youth Theatre Centre in the Federal Republic of Germany

Schützenstr. 12; D–60311 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 296661; Fax: +49 69 292354
E-Mail: zentrum@kjtz.de; Internet: www.kjtz.de

The Children’s and Youth Theatre Centre in the Federal Republic of Germany is a nationally and internationally active institution. It develops and promotes theatre for a young audience. It was founded in 1989 by an initiative of the West German International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ).

The Centre promotes theatre for young people and with young people, supports, informs and advises artists, students and educators in their theatre work and represents the interests of actors in politics and society. Current topics are referred to and reflected on to create a basis for initiating model projects, events, festivals, e.g. “One Moment!”, (Augenblick mal!) the Biennial of German Children’s and Youth Theatre (Biennale des deutschen Kinder- und Jugendtheaters) and conferences, as well as continuing and further education.

The headquarters, which is based in Frankfurt am Main and Berlin, was established in 1989 by an initiative of the West German International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) and the BMFSFJ. It is financed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth from funds of the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes), by the state of Hesse and the city of Frankfurt. The projects of its headquarters also have further sponsors.

The central office wants to work towards increasing the public visibility of children’s and youth theatre as an art form, to reflect on and develop its quality. For this purpose, it organises the Biennial of German Children’s and Youth Theatre (Biennale des deutschen Kinder- und Jugendtheaters) and the festival “One Moment!” in Berlin. The central office promotes art and creativity from the outset and is involved in a theatre for small children and with small children. It wants to develop the repertoire of children’s and youth theatre with the Frankfurt Authors’ Forum for Children’s and Youth Theatre (Frankfurter Autorenforum für Kinder- und Jugendtheater) and by awarding the German Children’s Theatre Prize (Deutscher Kindertheaterpreis) and the German Youth Theatre Prize (Deutscher Jugendtheaterpreis). In order to strengthen the repertoire of children’s and youth theatre by networking and exchange, the central office creates various opportunities for national and international specialist discourse. It coordinates the international exchange and creates the general conditions for individual meetings. In the central office’s collection, cultural heritage is preserved and communicated as a basis for the future of children’s and youth theatre. Its archive, library and media library are knowledge stores and instruments of qualification.

The central office is a member of the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung, BKJ), the representative for World Interplay and Interplay Europe, the festivals for young dramatists in Australia and Europe, and it co-operates worldwide through the German Section of International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ) and the Goethe Institute.
OTHER FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

Archiv der Jugendkulturen e.V.

Archive of Youth Cultures

Fidicinstr. 3; D-10965 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 6942934; Fax: +49 30 6913016
E-Mail: archiv@jugendkulturen.de; Internet: www.jugendkulturen.de

The Berlin-based Archive of Youth Cultures was established in 1998 and is dedicated to collecting, analysing, and providing public access to materials from and on youth culture (books, theses, media reports, fanzines, flyers, music, etc.) For this purpose, the Archive maintains a comprehensive library with a floorspace of around 200 square metres, organises specialised meetings and holds discussion events in schools, companies, youth clubs and universities, and publishes its own periodical, the Journal of Youth Culture (Journal der Jugendkulturen), and a series of books, which include contributions from specialists in the field, scientists, journalists and members of the youth culture scene.
BDK e. V. Fachverband für Kunstpädagogik

BDK e.V. Association for Art Education

Jakobistr. 40; D–30163 Hannover
Tel.: +49 511 662229; Fax: +49 511 3971843
E-Mail: geschaeftsstelle@bdk-online.info; Internet: www.bdk-online.info

BDK e.V. Association for Art Education – formerly: Federation of German Art Teachers and Educators (Bund Deutscher Kunsterzieherinnen und Kunsterzieher, BDK) – was founded in 1950 as a professional association to promote the cultural education, aesthetic training and understanding of arts and the mass media. It offers specialist support to arts education in schools.

BDK believes that aesthetic training and cultural education must be recognized as indispensable for a humane and powerful society. Its efforts focus on giving the appropriate priority to arts teaching in schools, e.g. making arts lessons a regular feature of the school curriculum and ensuring that art is taught by appropriately trained teachers. BDK demands that general education must be pursued in such a way that it enables an active participation in cultural life.

In conjunction with promoting arts education in the schools, BDK is especially concerned with universities and other scientific institutes providing adequate personal and material support to research and education in the university curricula for arts teachers and the fields of reference and sciences, which are related to arts teaching in schools. BDK also believes that there should be a complementarity between extracurricular and curricular cultural services and that their co-operation should be intensified.

BDK is affiliated to the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung), the Socio-Cultural Fund Association (Fonds Soziokultur) and the International Society for Education through Art (InSEA).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

BDK is represented in all Federal states through its Länder associations. Contact details are available at www.bdk-online.info.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Zirkuspädagogik e.V.

German Working Group for Circus Education

Bouchéstr. 75; D-12435 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 530004-22 oder 0175 5987505; Fax: +49 30 530004-39
E-Mail: info@bag-zirkus.de; Internet: www.bag-zirkus.de

The German Working Group for Circus Education was founded in 2005. The purpose of the group is to promote circus education, particularly in child and youth services and education, adult education and to promote the circus as an independent art form. This is achieved by mutual information, exchange of experiences, regional, national and international networking, representation of joint interests to the public and relevant authorities, joint actions, qualification, training, co-operation of the existing Land groups in the sector of circus education and the establishment of further Land groups.

The group’s purpose as stated in its articles of association is primarily fulfilled by promoting, supporting and realising circus education with children and young people. Due to its special sports, arts, educational, integrative and social facilities, it is an important medium of training and personality building.

The founding members are the Land working groups that are active in the field of circus education, as well as associations, organisations, institutions and individuals working in circus education.

MEMBERS
A list of the members is available at www.bag-zirkus.de.
Bundesverband Deutscher Kinder- und Jugendmuseen e.V.

**Federal Association of German Children’s and Youth Museums**

Michael-Ende-Str. 17; D–90439 Nürnberg  
Tel.: +49 911 6105535; Fax: +49 911 6105536  
E-Mail: info@bv-kindermuseum.de; Internet: www.bv-kindermuseum.de

Children’s museums are institutions of cultural youth education. They offer playing and learning situations for children, young people and their parents in such a way that learning will be fun. The core of this learning concept is the self-determined handling of objects – trying, exploring, discovering and comparing. Children’s museums are an attempt to make our complex world, lives and cultures understandable for children. The content ranges from the big bang to foreign cultures. Children’s museums again and again address the following areas: daily life histories, nature and environmental problems, the human body and perception, foreign cultures, media, science and technology, arts and creative projects, phenomena. They also organise workshops on crafts and scientific topics.

Children and youth museums are visited by school classes – by prior appointment –, children and youth groups as well as children and their families. With their learning layout, children and youth museums are not only interesting for children, they are also attractive for teachers and parents.

The Federal Association of German Children’s and Youth Museums (BV KJM) was founded in 1997. Its 43 current institutional members are independent on-site facilities, mobile facilities and initiatives from the entire Federal Republic of Germany. The main objective of the Association is to represent its members in the aim of establishing the model of the “children’s and youth museum” in the existing cultural and museum scene. Individual initiatives are advised and supported in setting up their museum. The Federal Association is part of a network with the European and international children’s museums Association, with the Länder associations and the German Federation for Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung, BKJ) and the Society for Cultural Policy (Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft). Internally, the exchange of experience is guaranteed by its conferences, an information service and individual consultation.

**MEMBERS**  
The members of the Federal Association are available at www.bv-kindermuseum.de.
Deutscher Bundesverband Tanz e. V.

German Federal Dance Association

Küppelstein 34; D-42857 Remscheid
Tel.: +49 2191 794-241; Fax: +49 2191 794-292
E-Mail: info@dbt-remscheid.de; Internet: www.dbt-remscheid.de

The German Federal Dance Association (DBT) is the nationwide umbrella organisation of amateur and large-scale dancing in Germany. For more than 50 years, DBT has been offering between 600 and 900 training and continued training activities a year. It represents the whole scale of the phenomenon of dance – from historic dancing to hip hop. With its events, it annually reaches approx. 150,000 opinion makers and people interested in dance, and it is funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) because of its contribution to the cultural education of children, young people and adults.

Important national German projects are the competition “Dancing Youth (Jugend tanzt), which is held on a national or state level under the patronage of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the part-time further training “Total Concept of Dance Education” (Gesamtkonzept Tanzpädagogik), which enables experts from youth, educational and cultural work as well as educationally committed dancers to obtain a basic qualification in the field of dance culture (large-scale dance). Co-operation partners are: the German Ballet/Dance Council (Deutscher Balletrat/Tanzrat), the University of Kassel, the German Sports University Cologne and the Remscheid Academy (Akademie Remscheid für musische Bildung und Medienziehung).

The DBT also runs the DANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BEIRAT TANZ) of the German Cultural Council (Deutscher Kulturrat) of which all German national specialist associations of dance, all Land training centres for dance and all universities/institutes of higher education, educators, artists and journalists are members. The Council provides advice on current matters of dance in its whole diversity and nationally represents the results on a cultural, educational and, socio-political level.

MEMBERS

The umbrella association of the German Federal Dance Association is a union of currently 13 Land working committees, 37 federal specialist associations, organisations, institutions and universities, as well as a large number of individual members. A list of Federal specialist associations, state working committees and organisations can be found at www.dbt-remscheid.de.
Deutscher Verband für Fotografie e.V.

German Photographic Association

c/o H. Landenberger
Heilbronner Str. 305; D-72760 Reutlingen
Tel.: +49 7121 290951; Fax: +49 7121 290981
E-Mail: h-landenberger@t-online.de; Internet: www.dvf-fotografie.de

The German Photographic Association (DVF) is the German forum for national and international photographic exhibitions, photographic seminars, photo clubs, amateur photography and competitive photography. It supports all photography-related activities and organises national and international training sessions for all segments of photography, laboratory technology and organisational photographic activities of all kinds. The association was founded in Berlin in 1908; it presently has approximately 350 affiliated photographic clubs from all regions of Germany and thousands of direct members.

It offers its members an opportunity to participate in competitions and exhibitions of regional, national and international significance and organises the Federal Photography Show, the Federal Slide Photography Show and the Northern and Southern German Photography Championships. It supports the foundation of photography clubs and the spread of photographic activities in youth work. Many young people are direct members of DVF.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
The German Photographic Association is represented nationwide through its 10 Länder associations. Contact addresses are available at www.dvf-fotografie.de.
The German Music Foundation has been dedicated to the nationwide promotion of highly talented young musicians since its foundation in 1962. The non-profit foundation working under the patronage of the Federal President aims at the long-term assistance and the customised promotion of its current number of approximately 150 grant recipients between 12 and 30 years of age. Consequently, its grants programme with its three main pillars takes into account various aspects which are of special significance for the grant recipients’ start into a life as a successful professional musician:

On the one hand, the concert series “Forum of young artists” (Foyer Junger Künstler) has given an opportunity to young musicians to gain experience on stage since 1992. Secondly and together with the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Music Foundation established the “German Musical Instrument Fund” (Deutscher Musikinstrumentenfonds) - the largest national collection of valuable string instruments, which are given on loan to outstanding young string players after an annual competition. And finally, the Foundation offers a wide range of scholarship and sponsorship programmes for a highly personalised promotion with this programme ranging from special prizes awarded at the national “Youth makes music” (Jugend musiziert) competition to scholarships for postgraduate studies abroad.
**SPONSORING FOUNDATIONS AND SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS**

**Fonds Soziokultur e.V.**

**Socio-Cultural Fund**

Weberstr. 59 A; D-53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 97144790; Fax: +49 228 97144799
E-Mail: info@fonds-soziokultur.de; Internet: www.fonds-soziokultur.de

Since 1988, the Socio-Cultural Fund has been promoting temporary projects in the Federal Republic of Germany which involve the development and practical testing of new formats of socio-cultural services and activities. The projects serve as a model for similar projects and are intended to spawn other socio-cultural activities and facilities. Larger projects may also receive funding, when they– as a result of their design and scope – require planning over a longer period of time or even years.

The financial support provided by the Fund is not limited to the implementation phase of a project, but may also include the concept development phase. The eligibility for funding is limited to projects that fulfil special quality standards and are appropriate to show the general public the importance of the socio-culture for a society’s cultural life.

**MEMBERS**

- BDK e.V. Fachverband für Kunstpädagogik
  Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der KulturKooperativen und Freien Gruppen e.V.
  Güntherstr. 65, D-44143 Dortmund,
  Tel. +49 231 5575210, Fax +49 231 55752129
- Bundesverband der Jugendkunstschulen und kulturpädagogischen Einrichtungen e.V.
  Bundesverband Studentische Kulturarbeit e.V.
  www.bsk-online.org
- Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung e.V.
- Bundesvereinigung sozio-kultureller Zentren e.V.
- Gesellschaft für Medienpädagogik und Kommunikationskultur in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.
  Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft e.V.
  Weberstr. 59 A, D-53113 Bonn,
  Tel. +49 228 20167-0, Fax +49 228 20167-33,
  post@kupoge.de, www.kupoge.de
**PwC-Stiftung Jugend – Bildung – Kultur**

*PwC-Foundation*

Olof-Palme-Str. 35; D-60439 Frankfurt/Main  
Tel.: +49 69 9511-9891; Fax: +49 69 9511-9899  
E-Mail: info@pwc-stiftung.de; Internet: www.pwc-stiftung.de

The PwC-Foundation wishes to contribute to promoting the cultural education of coming generations. To this end, it supports innovative model projects in the area of cultural education that exhibit outstanding content or conceptual design and actively bring children/young people closer to art and culture over the long term.

**Stiftung Lesen**

*Reading Foundation*

Römerwall 40; D-55131 Mainz  
Tel.: +49 6131 28890-0; Fax: +49 6131 230333  
E-Mail: mail@stiftunglesen.de; Internet: www.stiftunglesen.de

The foundation promotes the reading of books, magazines and newspapers: it advocates and promotes a modern culture of reading and language, reading and literary research, communication research, cultural education for young individuals and adults, media education, research into reading and media issues.
5.1 ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

ARBEIT UND LEBEN – Arbeitskreis für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V.
ARBEIT UND LEBEN – Workers’ Educational Association in the Federal Republic of Germany

Arbeitsgemeinschaft katholisch-sozialer Bildungswerke in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Association of Catholic-Social Education Centres in the Federal Republic of Germany

Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten e. V.
Association of German Educational Organisations

Bundesausschuss Politische Bildung
National Committee for Political Education

Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement
National Network for Civil Society

Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz – gegen Extremismus und Gewalt
Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance – Against Extremism and Violence

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Demokratiepädagogik e. V.
German Society for Democracy Education

Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e. V.
German Adult Education Association

Evangelische Trägergruppe für gesellschaftspolitische Jugendbildung
Protestant Committee for Socio-political Youth Education

GEMINI – Gemeinsame Initiative der Träger politischer Jugendbildung im Bundesausschuss Politische Bildung
GEMINI – Common Initiative of the Associations of Political Youth Education in the Federal Committee for Political Education

Gesellschaft der Europäischen Akademien e. V.
Association of European Academies

IKAB Bildungswerk e. V. – Bildungswerk des Instituts für angewandte Kommunikationsforschung in der Außerschulischen Bildung
IKAB Educational Association – Educational Association of the Institute for Applied Communication Research in Non-Formal Education

Informations- und Dokumentationszentrum für Antirassistmusarbeit e. V.
Information and Documentation Centre for Anti-Racism Work

Interkultureller Rat in Deutschland
Intercultural Council in Germany

Paritätisches Bildungswerk e. V. – Bundesverband
Paritätisches Bildungswerk – Federal Association
5.2 INITIATIVES AND FOUNDATIONS FOR POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

“Mach meinen Kumpel nicht an!” e. V.  
“Leave my buddy alone!”

AKTIONCOURAGE e. V. – SOS Rassismus  
CAMPAIGN COURAGE – SOS Racism

Amadeu Antonio Stiftung  
Amadeu Antonio Foundation

F. C. Flick Stiftung gegen Fremdenfeindlichkeit, Rassismus und Intoleranz  
F.C. Flick Stiftung against Xenophobia, Racism and Intolerance

Gesicht Zeigen! Aktion weltoffenes Deutschland e. V.  
Show Your True Colours! Action for a Cosmopolitan Germany!

Projektbüro “Dialog der Generationen”  
Project Office “Intergenerational Dialogue”

step21 – Initiative für Toleranz und Verantwortung Jugend fordert! gemeinnützige GmbH  
step21 – Initiative for tolerance and responsibility

Stiftung “Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft”  
Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future”

Stiftung MITARBEIT  
Foundation for Participation
5.1 ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

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ARBEIT UND LEBEN – Workers’ Educational Association in the Federal Republic of Germany is an institution of political youth and adult education which was established by the German Trade Union Confederation (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund) and the adult education centres. Its history is closely related to the experiences in the period of National Socialism: the first facilities were established in 1949 on the regional level. In 1956, a federal association was established, the Federal Working Group.

The educational activities of ARBEIT UND LEBEN are intended to contribute towards workers (employees, the unemployed, trainees) taking responsibility in society and getting involved in designing societal developments. People’s life and work is intended to develop according to the principles of social justice, equal opportunities, solidarity and a democratic political culture.

Education programmes for workers, who are regarded as rather unfamiliar with or disadvantaged in terms of education because of their biography, their living and working conditions, are given a particular priority. By offering holistic concepts and new methods in political education, ARBEIT UND LEBEN strives to heighten political interest of (not only) young male and female workers, to enable them to take responsible action in society, and thus to contribute to their own professional integration and qualification.

In its international youth work, ARBEIT UND LEBEN offers young male and female workers an opportunity to meet young people from other countries in exchange programmes and encounters and to take a look at their everyday reality, their working and training conditions. As a supplement to such programmes for young people, ARBEIT UND LEBEN organises programmes for professionals and multipliers, and thus enables them to gain insights into concrete conditions in the respective host countries, to improve the exchange of information and experience, and to plan projects and longer term co-operations.

Franco-German youth exchange is traditionally one of the focal areas in international youth work. At the same time, ARBEIT UND LEBEN is represented in almost all funding programmes for international youth work and in European education programmes.
5.1 OUT-OF-SCHOOL POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

STRUCTURES
An overview of the structures of ARBEIT UND LEBEN with their respective addresses and links is available at www.arbeitundleben.de.
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AKSB, the Association of Catholic-Social Education Centres in the Federal Republic of Germany, was founded in 1952 to make a contribution towards Catholic education institutions for the consolidation of democracy in Germany. It is the nationally active Catholic organisation of political adult and youth education, and represents Catholic academies, education institutions, clubs and associations. The basis of AKSB's educational work is the “Beutelsbach Consensus”, which the supporters of political education adopted in 1967, and which forbids any form of massive political intervention, acknowledges and promotes the diversity of political opinions and stimulates and encourages political activity.

The affiliated organisations offer educational events which provide information and backgrounds on important topics and matters of societal coexistence. Every year, the affiliated organisations hold more than 700 political education events of several days' duration, which reach approx. 20,000 people of all ages regardless of their political, ideological and cultural orientation, and which include both openly publicised events, co-operation with schools, universities, companies or associations. The events are planned, held and assessed by qualified specialists.

AKSB is a member of the Catholic National Working Group for Adult Education (Katholische Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Erwachsenenbildung, KBE), a member of the German Committee for Political Education (Bundesausschuss für politische Bildung) and of the Catholic Working Group for Vocational Training (Katholische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für berufliche Bildung). Its legal entity is the Association for the Promotion of Catholic-Social Education Centres in the Federal Republic of Germany (Verein zur Förderung katholisch-sozialer Bildungswerke in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.)

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5.1 OUT-OF- SCHOOL POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

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ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1

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KKV Bundesverband der Katholiken in Wirtschaft und Verwaltung e.V. Bismarckstr. 61, D-45128 Essen, Tel. +49 201 87923-0, Fax +49 201 87923-33, info@kkv-bund.de, www.kkv-bund.de

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5.1 OUT-OF-SCHOOL POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

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“Democracy needs political education” – this is the conviction of the Association of German Educational Organisations (AdB). Education facilities from all over Germany have been co-operating in AdB since 1959, and they represent a wide spectrum of various types of programmes and projects in the field of political education. They are united in their common understanding, which is based on the principle of a “Unity of living and learning together”.

In the education facilities – youth education centres, residential adult education centres, academies, international meeting centres, further education institutions, education institutions of foundations associated with political parties -, people from various spheres of life meet to learn and live together for a limited period of time. In these programmes, democracy should not be taught only as a state form; the participants are instead meant to primarily experience democracy in their daily lives and as a first-hand experience: enabling methods encourage the participants to address issues independently, they promote the participants’ own decision-making and motivate them to participate in the political debate.

The education programmes focus on “political” matters, which concern people in their respective circumstances, and which include all social spheres of action in our society. Political education today is primarily an invitation to orientation, communication, dialogue and towards mastering political changes and the impact of far-reaching social and cultural changes, which people do not experience as passive onlookers, but which are to be designed with citizens’ active participation.

AdB offers its affiliates a forum for exchanging experiences, organising the affiliates’ joint representation of interests, and opportunities for further enhancing the quality of their educational practice. Commissions and working groups discuss various activities in the field of political education. These include issues of education policy, developments of methodology and teaching theory for the work with various target groups, managerial skills and funding problems and issues of education marketing. Further education events qualify staff coming from the affiliates’ various fields of activity to successfully discharge their specific tasks. The staff positions, projects and courses in the area of political youth education are funded from the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes).

AdB is represented in numerous organisations on the national and international level and manages the Federal Committee for Political Education (Bundesausschuss Politische Bildung), a forum for the co-operation of the national structures of associations active in political youth and adult education.

International encounters and international cooperation are a focus in the activities of numerous AdB affiliates who implement programmes with various partners in many countries. In co-operation with its affiliates, AdB organises the exchange of opinion among professionals as well as bilateral and international co-operation events and as an exchange with organisations and institutions – its current focus is on Mongolia and the Russian Federation. It initiated the establishment of the European Democracy and
5.1

OUT-OF-SCHOOL POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Human Rights in Education Association – DARE – is instrumental in the further development of this network.

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ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1

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5.1

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The National Committee for Political Education is a federation of around 30 national providers of extra-curricular political youth and adult education. The joint goal of the organisations representing different orientations in the National Committee is to further the development and improvement of political youth and adult education through the exchange of experience and co-operation. Furthermore, it would like to increase the recognition of the significance of this education sector and to communicate and implement the need for its public promotion.

The members of bap aim to encourage and enable citizens of all ages to realise their own interests in the awareness of their societal responsibility. The focus is not placed on state guidelines, but on the various movements in civil society that play a role in our political culture and the democratic further development of demands and objectives. Political education keeps opportunities for participation open and keeps the dialogue alive.

The National Committee represents the joint demands and objectives of its affiliates. It forms specialist committees and project groups, devises concepts and statements on educational policy and supporting policy developments, encourages the exchange of educational-methodical questions of political education and is an expert member of national and international advisory boards. Furthermore, one of its tasks is to represent the joint interests of its affiliates vis-à-vis parliament, government and the public.

At least twice a year, bap’s members hold general assemblies that are also attended by representatives of national authorities working in political youth and adult education.

The bap publishes the magazine “Practice of Political Education” (Praxis Politische Bildung). In addition, it sends its affiliates and interested parties an online newsletter and runs its own homepage. For a period of three years, an affiliated organisation is charged with the management of the National Committee.

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Tel. +49 1888 57–0, Fax +49 1888 57–83601

Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend
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Tel. +49 1888 555–0, Fax +49 1888 555–2221

poststelle@bmf.bund.de, www.bmfsfj.de

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Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung
InWEnt – Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH

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Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement

National Network for Civil Society

Bundesgeschäftsstelle
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E-Mail: info@b-b-e.de; Internet: www.b-b-e.de

Set up by the 31 members of the National Council of the International Year of Volunteers (Nationaler Beirat des Internationalen Jahrs der Freiwilligen) in 2002, the German National Network for Civil Society (BBE) brings together representatives of civil society, government and industry. BBE now has more than 200 member organisations, which themselves have an overall membership numbering several million. BBE provides its members with a platform for consultation, coordination of their political activities and cross-sector, interdisciplinary development of strategies and plans aimed at promoting civic involvement. The members’ common goal is to take long-term action to create optimum legal, institutional and organisational conditions for civic involvement. They seek to improve national, European and international knowledge-sharing on civic involvement, strengthen co-operation and develop the knowledge available on civic involvement.

BBE has nine project groups working on various areas, particularly the conditions for civic involvement, the development of local civil society at the local level, the future of voluntary service, the role of civic involvement in the reform of the welfare state, civic involvement on the part of migrants, education and training for civic involvement, corporate citizenship, the development of an improved culture of recognition for those who engage in civic involvement and the interlinking of national civil societies to form a European civil society.

One important goal of BBE is to evolve training and education for and through civic involvement. The intention is that it should become an integral part of holistic education for pupils to assume responsibility at school and in the community. BBE wants schools to open up towards the community, to become more receptive for new forms of collaboration and to be granted more flexibility and resources to do so. BBE also calls for new possibilities and places for “learning” civic involvement, for civil involvement to be established as an educational objective in crèches, schools and in higher education. To ensure these calls are heard, BBE organises a range of events, including a series of school conferences, at which the relationship between civic involvement and education is discussed with the participation of various players and existing approaches are evolved.

In addition, BBE works to support the development of volunteer services, which can play a major part in increasing civic involvement. In this connection, it participates in the debates concerning new forms of voluntary service, particularly the possibility of voluntary services on a cross-generation basis. BBE is currently developing an internet platform intended to give an overview of the various voluntary service programmes on offer.

BBE also addresses the public using materials for promoting civic involvement and by means of conferences and public statements. The “Civic Commitment Week” (Woche des bürgerschaftlichen Engagements), which is held by BBE each September, plays a particularly important role (www.engagement-macht-stark.de).

In a co-operation project with Deutsche BP, BBE is currently offering training for young people who engage in civic involvement. The project enables 18- to 27-year-olds
to devise and implement their own civic involvement projects and provides them with background knowledge in the fields of project management, cost planning, fundraising, publicity work and teamwork (www.civil-academy.de).

The work of BBE’s committees, project groups and projects is co-ordinated and supported by BBE’s head office.

MEMBERS ORGANISATIONS
BBE is a network of members from civil society, industry and government. Its members from civil society include the umbrella organisations and some of the large individual associations from the fields of social affairs, the environment, sport, culture, relief and rescue services, women’s affairs, youth and senior citizens plus the two Christian churches, foundations and the umbrella organisations of the volunteering agencies and centres, volunteering agencies for senior citizens, self-help groups and self-help advice centres. In the industry and labour sector, the German Trade Union Confederation DGB, the IG Metall and ver.di trade unions and various companies (including Ford Werke AG, Deutsche BP, Commerzbank and Betapharm GmbH) are among its affiliates. The government sector is represented by three Federal ministries, 15 Länder, two umbrella organisations of local authorities and several individual municipalities. For a list of its members, please refer to www.b-b-e.de.
The Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance – Against Extremism and Violence (BfDT) was officially launched on 23 May 2000 by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Ministry of Justice. It pools all forces working for democracy and tolerance in our civil society. More than 1,300 initiatives and individuals have meanwhile stated their willingness to co-operate, they want to introduce ideas and proposals or draw attention to already existing activities.

The 4-day Youth Congress with lectures, workshops, music and discussions around 23 May offers an opportunity to more than 400 young people to exchange experiences and to take home suggestions for their commitment in our civil society. By awarding the “Ambassador of Tolerance” (Botschafter der Toleranz) prize in connection with the official 23-May ceremony, the Alliance pays a tribute to individuals and initiatives, which have demonstrated their excellence in working for a tolerant society.

BfDT’s activities are governed by an Advisory Board with members from all parliamentary groups in the Bundestag, representatives of industry, science, the Jewish community and social service organisations. A group of well-known personalities form the supporters’ circle, which supports the Alliance and speaks out on its behalf on certain occasions.

BfDT collects and documents examples of civic commitment and recommends them as good practices to be followed. In the “Active for democracy and tolerance” (Aktiv für Demokratie und Toleranz) competition, model projects receive money prizes of €1,000 to 5,000 each and are presented in regional awards ceremonies.

BfDT advises and supports, it establishes contacts between groups working on the same subject. It is the initiator of individual model projects and ultimately gets involved in awareness campaigns. Its networking mission is also supported by a “Initiatives in the Alliance” (Initiativen im Bündnis) column, which contains incentives for the participation in and emulation of existing projects (please refer to: www.buendnis-toleranz.de).

The “Victor Klemperer Youth Contest” (Victor-Klemperer-Jugendwettbewerb), which is organised together with Dresdner Bank and – since 2002 – with the ZDF TV Channel (www.victor-klemperer-wettbewerb.de) receives a lot of attention.

In 2007, BfDT started to explore new fields of action such as the promotion of tolerance in sports and support for on-site integration.

It also attaches major significance to the promotion of moral courage and a stronger local commitment, e.g. by offering advice to groups, which feel locally isolated; assisting secondary school students wishing to organise events such as a concert against right-wing extremism; organising information and discussion events; networking projects working on the same topic; visiting local projects.
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Demokratiepädagogik e.V.

German Society for Democracy Education

Chausseestr. 29; D-10115 Berlin
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The German Society for Democracy Education (DeGeDe) is a non-profit association, which is committed to democracy in education and youth centres. It was established in 2005 to provide a nationwide impetus for progress in the development of a democratic culture at schools and in youth centres, to offer and to support further education and research projects on democracy education, to win political decision-makers and civil society players for the promotion of democracy education projects, to publicise good examples of democratic developments in education, schools and youth work, to promote the co-operation between democratic schools and to progress the co-operation between democracy education players in schools, youth work and further education throughout Europe.

DeGeDe regards it as a particularly important task to foster a determined development of democratic learning and a democratic culture in schools – together with students, parents, teachers and all stakeholders in child education and childraising from the areas of science, administration, politics and civic society. For this purpose, it wants to strengthen the links between players and initiatives and to develop its own innovation projects.

DeGeDe wants to make children and young people in day-care centres for children, youth centres and schools experience democracy as a form of life. Education and care facilities have a particular responsibility for the future of democracy. In these facilities, children must have an opportunity to develop democratic competences by experiencing the fun of getting actively involved in shaping their community and by learning that participation is a civic right and a human right – and that it includes education and the schools.
Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e. V.

German Adult Education Association

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Tel.: +49 228 97569–0; Fax: +49 228 97569–30
E-Mail: info@dvv-vhs.de; Internet: www.dvv-vhs.de

The German Adult Education Association (DVV) is the umbrella association of adult education centres in the Federal Republic of Germany. Since 1953, it has been a union of the Länder associations of adult education centres with a total of meanwhile 998 adult education centres and 3,537 adult education branches.

The remit and purpose of the Association is to promote the education/further training of adults and of educational work in the adult education centres, as well as the exploration and representation of the interests of the Länder associations of adult education centres. DVV performs this task, in particular, through the co-operation and the exchange of experiences of its members. DVV develops principles and guidelines for work, carries out the educational and social policy representation of the adult education centres on the national and European level and promotes the quality of adult education work.

DVV promotes the international co-operation and the international exchange of experts in further training by its institute for international co-operation (dvv international).

Since 1956, the German Adult Education Association has been a partner of the participating ministries and the supported adult education centres as a provider for political youth education as part of the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes, KJP).

To continue and further develop the long-term work of the youth expert programme of the Association in view of the changing funding conditions, the “DVV Central Office for Political Youth Education” (DVV-Zentralstelle für Politische Jugendbildung) was established in Bonn in 2005. As part of the guidelines and with funding from the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation, DVV promotes political education for young people up to the age of 27, working conferences and further education courses for opinion makers and employees, as well as model projects on the following key topics:

- Democracy and participation: participation
- Intercultural education: tolerance
- Working with the disadvantaged: integration
- Environment and society: responsibility
- Information and knowledge society: media competence
- Historical-political education: understanding
- Gender equality: Respect

dvv international: Institut für Internationale Zusammenarbeit des DVV, Obere Wilhelmstr. 32, D-53225 Bonn, Tel.: +49 228 97569-0, Fax: +49 228 97569-55, www.dvv-international.de.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

The DVV is nationally represented with its 16 Länder associations. Contact addresses are available at: www.dvv-vhs.de.
Evangelische Trägergruppe für gesellschaftspolitische Jugendbildung

Protestant Committee for Socio-political Youth Education

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Internet: www.politische-jugendbildung-et.de

The Protestant Committee for Socio-political Youth Education was founded at the end of the 1950s and is a nationally active organisation of political youth education. It is jointly supported by the Protestant Academies in Germany (Evangelische Akademien in Deutschland) and the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland).

At various Protestant academies and youth education centres for Protestant youth throughout Germany, approximately 40 youth education officers hold political youth education events based on the Committee’s joint conceptual guidance. The programmes target young people from various social backgrounds, multipliers from the field of child and youth welfare and youth and society policy, from action groups and from church youth work.

The extensive range of events of the participating providers (seminars and projects for young people, nationwide specialist conferences for multipliers, study trips and international meetings) focus on the following topics: politics, civil society involvement, tolerance and courage; gender-related education – sex and gender – ways towards gender democracy; work, education, life perspectives; intergenerational justice – Agenda 21 – sustainable development; orientation in a society of diversity; religion, ethics, values; skills for the media and information society; the art of life – social skills – everyday policies; intercultural learning and international education: European and global developments; basic matters of youth welfare, youth education and youth research, etc.

The Protestant provider group promotes and oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of innovative projects and regards itself as the place for a lively, discursive discussion on forward-looking concepts of political youth education. It advises its providers on the realisation of new approaches for political youth education and organises extensive quality management.

As part of GEMINI, the joint initiative of the providers of political youth education in the National Committee for Political Education (GEMINI – Gemeinsame Initiative der Träger politischer Jugendbildung im Bundesausschuss Politische Bildung), the Protestant Committee campaigns for a network of multiple providers of political youth education. Its main interest is in the expansion of civil society structures, tolerant coexistence between different cultures, mutual recognition of different ways of life in a society based on diversity, as well as an expansion of participative and democratic structures of society.

As a regular publication, the Protestant Committee brings out the Yearbook of Socio-political Youth Education (Jahrbuch der gesellschaftspolitischen Jugendbildung).
5.1 OUT-OF-SCHOOL POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

MEMBERS

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WORKING GROUPS

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Amt für kirchliche Dienste der Evangelischen Kirche in Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz (EKBO) – Jugendarbeit und Arbeit mit Kindern
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ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1

Zentrum Gesellschaftliche Verantwortung der Evangelischen Landeskirche in Hessen und Nassau
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GEMINI – Gemeinsame Initiative der Träger politischer Jugendbildung im Bundesausschuss Politische Bildung

GEMINI – Common Initiative of the Associations of Political Youth Education in the Federal Committee for Political Education

c/o Bundesausschuss Politische Bildung
Mühlendamm 3; D–10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 40040118, Fax: +49 30 40040122
E-Mail: info@bap-politischebildung.de
Internet: www.bap-politischebildung.de/DE/2725/Gemini.php

GEMINI is the combination of organisations running extra-curricular political education in Germany. The Common Initiative regards itself as a network of autonomous, independent and free facilities offering political youth education. With its promotional, educational and youth-centered initiatives, GEMINI builds on the innovative development of a pluralistic range of quality services for political youth education throughout Germany. The individual organisations co-operate to inform each other about the current key issues in political youth education and the design of the methodology and content of their respective activities.

GEMINI represents the interests of political youth education organisations vis-à-vis politicians, ministries and other sponsors and organises events to professionally discuss current challenges and perspectives in the field. As a result of its dialogue with various organisations and sponsors, GEMINI is concerned with the development of quality standards for practical political education. In this context, the Common Initiative facilitates an exchange of experience on various evaluation and self-evaluation concepts and critically reviews the criteria determining the professional character of political youth work.

GEMINI is involved in national initiatives and organises inter-regional events to put the issue of political youth education more into the spotlight. The affiliated associations of GEMINI attach great importance to the expansion of civil society structures, the tolerant social co-existence of different cultures and the mutual recognition of differing ways of life in a society marked by diversity. They teach the basics of democratic behaviour and promote the commitment to an active participation in shaping and further developing our democratic society. Their work is funded by financial resources budgeted in the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes, KJP)

CO-OPERATION PARTNERS

► Arbeitsgemeinschaft katholisch-sozialer Bildungswerke in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
► Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungszentren e.V.
► ARBEIT UND LEBEN – Arbeitskreis für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.
► Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V.
► Evangelische Trägergruppe für gesellschaftspolitische Jugendbildung
► Verband der Bildungszentren im ländlichen Raum e.V.
Gesellschaft der Europäischen Akademien e.V.

Association of European Academies

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The Association of European Academies (GEA) was founded in 1974. The education centres affiliated to the Association want to promote European integration and to motivate and enable especially the young generation to actively participate in and assume responsibility for European integration. The education activities of the affiliated academies are based on the principle of a federal united Europe organised in the structure of the “United States of Europe”.

The affiliated academies consider themselves as a European education initiative. They teach and consider facts, concepts and objectives of European integration under historical, institutional, economic, political and cultural aspects. Their principles say that European awareness embracing all regional and national identities as well as the political and social actions developed as a result enable people to design their mutual existence in peace and freedom and thus enable them to develop a better future for themselves.

The European Academies and Europe Houses are an element of the European movement, and, in this capacity, they make an important contribution towards a factual basis for the discussions on European policies. European information and education activities in the eastern German Federal states are of special significance for European and German integration.

GEA members are autonomous in their institutional structure, their objectives and the content of their activities. On the international level, they work in close co-operation with the International Federation of European Houses (FIME), an association of more than 120 European information and education centres in more than 25 European countries. Their institutional co-operation with the Institute for European Politics (Institut für europäische Politik) is the hinge bringing the interests of youth and adult education in line with the newest research findings on European politics.

EUROPEAN ACADEMIES

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5.1 OUT-OF-SCHOOL POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

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eh-leipzig@gea-deutschland.de,
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www.europahaus-aurich.de

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www.rostock.zgdv.de/EZR/

Sonnenberg-Kreis Gesellschaft zur Förderung internationaler Zusammenarbeit e.V.
IKAB Bildungswerk e. V. – Bildungswerk des Instituts für angewandte Kommunikationsforschung in der Außerschulischen Bildung

IKAB Educational Association – Educational Association of the Institute for Applied Communication Research in Non-Formal Education

Poppelsdorfer Allee 92; D-53115 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 636460; Fax: +49 228 694848
E-Mail: info@ikab.de; Internet: www.ikab.de

The IKAB Educational Association of the Institute for Applied Communication Research in Non-Formal Education is a private non-profit organisation and is accredited as an institute of continuing education according to Act on Further Education (Weiterbildungs-gesetz) of Northrhine-Westphalia. Its educational programme is primarily sponsored by the Franco-German Youth Office (▶ Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk), through EU programmes, and with funding from the government of Northrhine-Westphalia.

The Institute is dedicated to applied communication research on the basis of social learning in an inter-cultural context. In mainly bi-national and international projects and workshops on intercultural political education, adolescents and young adults develop individual, social, and societal conditions for a coexistence characterised by solidarity and tolerance – with the creation of a European civil society as the main guiding principle of their activities.

Since it was founded in 1978, the Institute has applied the principles of interaction in its educational practice and research and has incorporated its findings in target-group specific curricula, especially in its work with disadvantaged adolescents, but also with trainees or young employees, and the facilitators of youth and social work. Moreover, the Institute holds workshops with adolescents in voluntary services in co-operation with the International Youth Community Services – Society for International and Political Education (▶ Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste Bundesverein – Gesellschaft für internationale und politische Bildung, ijgd).

Other important aspects of the Educational Association’s sponsoring organisation are: qualitative research in an inter-cultural context – mainly action-oriented evaluation studies in the fields of youth and education politics – institutional advisory services, job-specific advanced training, and scientific project support and supervision.

The IKAB Educational Association is a member of the Association of German Educational Organisations (▶ Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten) and founding member of the European UNIQUE Association (United for Innovation and Quality in Education), an institutional network of youth organisations specialised in professional training, counselling services and research.
Informations- und Dokumentationszentrum für Antirassismusarbeit e. V.

*Information and Documentation Centre for Anti-Racism Work*

Vollmerswerther Str. 20; D-40221 Düsseldorf
Tel.: +49 211 159255–5; Fax: +49 211 159255–69
E-Mail: info@idaev.de; Internet: www.idaev.de

The Information and Documentation Centre for Anti-racism Work was founded in 1990 on the initiative of the democratic youth associations in Germany as a symbolic act against racism. Member and affiliate organisation of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring), the German Sports Youth in the German Olympic Sports Federation (Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund), the Council of Political Youth Organisations (Ring Politischer Jugend), the “Leave my buddy alone!” initiative (“Mach meinen Kumpel nicht an!”), the Association of Alewite Youth in Germany (Bund der Alevitischen Jugendlichen in Deutschland), the Association for Young Germans of Russian Origin (Deutsche Jugend aus Russland) and the youth department of the Federation of Democratic Workers’ Associations (DIDF). The IDA-NRW project – Information and Documentation Centre for Anti-Racism Work in Northrhine-Westphalia (Informations- und Dokumentationszentrum für Antirassismusarbeit in Nordrhein-Westfalen) – has been affiliated since 1994. The project regards itself as a motor and supporter of youth associations and the facilitators of youth work in Northrhine-Westphalia.

IDA serves as a national centre for project support and materials on topics such as (anti-)racism, right-wing extremism, migration and interculturalism for youth organisations and federations, initiatives, schools, as well as youth work and education specialists.

IDA concentrates on providing information and advice in the field of youth education and youth work. It monitors the subject areas of racism, right-wing extremism, migration, and interculturalism with regard to their relevance to youth. It works up the political and scientific developments in this context and issues materials focusing on them. IDA offers speaker directories and catalogues of films and videos, of education and course materials, of exhibitions, artists, and games. Publishing brochures and flyers on topics such as tolerance, integration, intercultural youth work, anti-racism training, or migration, mainly suited for people who work in schools and in youth work on a paid or voluntary basis, is another important section of IDA’s work. The “Infomail” mailing contains up-to-date information on youth association work and anti-racism work, draws attention to recent publications, and announces upcoming events. Conferences, seminars and workshops on, for instance, anti-racism in educational work, the practice of intercultural projects or intervention against right-wing extremism in social milieus are another emphasis in IDA’s work. To ease access to the services and resources of child and youth welfare for young migrants, IDA also furthers their work in youth organisations by offering skill-building courses, advisory services and co-operation.

Moreover, IDA also carries out projects of its own, for example for the development of educational materials for coping with present-day manifestations of anti-Semitism among adolescents. IDA has an extensive database that contains the addresses of organisations, initiatives, authorities and scientific institutions, which it uses to provide inquiring persons or institutions with information on further specialist organisations.
Thanks to the comprehensive reference library, the IDA office can give qualified answers to requests. The services of IDA are open to anyone.

MEMBERS

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland e.V.
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der JungsozialistInnen und Jungsozialisten in der SPD
- Bund der Alevitischen Jugendlichen in Deutschland e.V. / Almanya Alevi Gençler Birliği
- Bund der Deutschen Landjugend im Deutschen Bauernverband e.V.
- Bund Deutscher PfadfinderInnen e.V.
- Bundesjugendwerk der Arbeiterwohlfahrt e.V.
- Jugend im dbb beamtenbund und tarifunion (dbb-jugend)
- Deutsche Jugend aus Russland e.V.
- Deutsche Schreiberjugend Bundesverband e.V.
- Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund (DOSB) e.V.
- Deutsches Jugendrotkreuz DIDF-Jugend e.V.

Hohenstaufenring 55, D-50667 Köln,
Tel. +49 221 92554-93,
jugend@didf.de, www.didf-jugend.de

- DGB-Jugend
- djo – Deutsche Jugend in Europa Bundesverband e.V.
- GRÜNE JUGEND Bundesverband
- Jugend der Deutschen Lebens-Rettungs-Gesellschaft
- Jungdemokratinnen – Junge Linke – radikal-demokratischer und parteinahmungsfreier Jugendverband e.V.
- Junge Europäische Föderalisten – Sektion Bundesrepublik Deutschland
- Junge Liberale e.V.
- Junge Union Deutschlands
- Katholische Junge Gemeinde
- Naturfreundejugend Deutschlands
- Ring Deutscher Pfadfinderinnenverbände
- Ring deutscher Pfadfinderverbände
- Sozialistische Jugend Deutschlands – Die Falken
- “Mach meinen Kumpel nicht an!” e.V.
5.1 OUT-OF-SCHOOL POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Interkultureller Rat in Deutschland

*Intercultural Council in Germany*

Göbelstr. 21; D-64293 Darmstadt
Tel.: +49 6151 339971; Fax: +49 6151 3919740
E-Mail: info@interkultureller-rat.de; Internet: www.interkultureller-rat.de

The Intercultural Council in Germany was founded on 31 August 1994. People of different origins and nationalities, as well as various groups of society such as trade unions, employer’s associations, religious communities, migrant and human rights organisations, local authority and state authorities, media and science co-operate in the Intercultural Council in Germany.

The Intercultural Council in Germany wants to develop intercultural and interreligious dialogue structures between German and foreign citizens and their organisations and thus combat the tendencies towards an ethnic retreat of minorities. Long-term educational work aims to do away with prejudices in the population and to create acceptance for Germany as a country of immigration. The Intercultural Council in Germany wants to help overcome xenophobic attitudes and to contribute to peaceful coexistence.

The Intercultural Council in Germany particularly addresses young people and adolescents as part of Abrahamic dialogue events that are held in the school and extracurricular education sector, as well as dialogue projects between Muslims, non-Muslims and state authorities on the municipal level. The goals are to overcome mutual prejudices and reservations, and to ensure the continued improvement of the coexistence of young people of various religions and cultures in Germany.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Intercultural Council in Germany is personal. As a result, the members are not representing the organisations for which they work on a full-time or voluntary basis.
Paritätisches Bildungswerk e.V. – Bundesverband

Paritätisches Bildungswerk – Federal Association

Heinrich-Hoffmannstr. 3; D-60528 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 6706-0; Fax: +49 69 6706-203
E-Mail: pb.bv@paritaet.org; Internet: www.bildungswerk.paritaet.org

The Paritätisches Bildungswerk – Federal Association was founded in 1964. It is the umbrella organisation for 70 supra-regional non-profit social organisations that have no party-political or confessional ties. The Bildungswerk is regionally anchored through its Länder associations in nine of the Länder. The Bildungswerk provides social education, thus contributing to social justice and the realisation of human rights. The Paritätisches Bildungswerk has taken on the task of encouraging and promoting education, which is a crucial factor for social work. It makes reference to present developments in society and applies them to practical work and educational policy in co-operation with other educational institutions.

As the umbrella organisation, Paritätisches Bildungswerk supports its members in terms of the financing of educational schemes, of developing new common projects and finding sponsoring opportunities, and with application procedures; also, it offers special advanced training courses. As a nation-wide interest group, it is also responsible for public relations; for instance, it publishes a newsletter.

According to Paritätisches Bildungswerk, the foundations of social education are the reflection of one’s own life and world and experiences of life, an increased awareness of one’s own social role, the development of communication and dialogue skills, the promotion of the ability to take action in communities and groups, the reflection on social responsibility and the ethics of responsibility, and reflecting on the images of individuals and society in social work.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
A list of member organisations and Länder associations is available at www.bildungswerk.paritaet.org.
German Association of Rural Residential Education Centres

Claire-Waldoff-Str. 7; D–10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 3190453–0; Fax: +49 30 3190453–9
E-Mail: info@verband-bildungszentren.de

The German Association of Rural Residential Education Centres (until November 2005: German Association of Rural Home Education Centres) was founded in 1951 and now has 43 member institutions. Rural education centres offer a wide range of education courses for everyone in rural areas. They prepare their topics with an orientation to the life situations of the participants. They are addressed as politically active citizens, committed employees, employers or self-employed individuals. Rural education centres enable and encourage people in rural areas to assert their interests competently and accountably, and thus to influence their social and political lives. Their aim is commitment to villages and municipalities, associations and societies, and the churches.

All rural education centres have an individual profile, which is characterised by the specific mandate of their supporting organisation, their regional setting and the skills and knowledge of their staff. The centres are responsible for managing their own business affairs. Most of them are registered associations. The Catholic or Protestant Church, or farmers’ and country women’s associations, are members of the sponsoring voluntary organisations. This membership sometimes links individual centres with regional activities in a nationwide network of education facilities.

As a recognised provider of rural youth and adult education, the German Association of Rural Residential Education Centres maintains internal and external contacts with persons in politics, administration and PR. It informs customers and financial supporters of current trends and offers. Internally it regards itself as a service provider for its member institutions. The spectrum of the courses offered includes political, social and personal further education, religious and spiritual education, media education, basic courses and long-term education for young adults, agricultural courses, and arts and culture.

MEMBER CENTRES

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

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info@bildungshaus-neckarelz.de,
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Schwäbische Bauernschule Bad Waldsee Ländliche Heimvolkshochschule
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bauernschule@lbv-bw.de,
www.schwaebische-bauernschule.de.
ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1

BAVARIA

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lvhsna@degnet.de, www.lvhs-niederaleich.de
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werner@ejl.de, www.lvhv-pappenheim.de
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BRANDENBURG

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HESSE

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info@bildungsstaette-gartenbau.de, www.bildungsstaette-gartenbau.de
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5.1 OUT-OF-SCHOOL POLITICAL YOUTH EDUCATION AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

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hvhs@klosterdonndorf.de, www.klosterdonndorf.de
**Verein zur Förderung politischen Handelns e.V.**

*Association for the Advancement of Political Action*

c/o Politisches Bildungswerk Junge Erwachsene machen Politik (JumP)
Rathausgasse 11A; D-53111 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 9638-551; Fax: +49 228 9638-553
E-Mail: mail@vfh-online.de; Internet: www.vfh-online.de

The Association for the Advancement of Political Action (v.f.h.) is a nationwide, non-partisan initiative of politically involved young people. In Northrhine-Westphalia, v.f.h. is represented by the political education group Young Adults in Politics (Junge Erwachsene machen Politik, JumP).

v.f.h. offers nationwide seminars and training on political education: political basic seminars, currently disputed issues and political tools. The seminars aim to motivate young people and young adults to get politically and societally involved and support them in their involvement. The seminars are held by qualified teams, which – depending on the target group and topic of the seminar – are made up of students and/or young professionals. In addition to expertise on the respective topic, the seminar holders have gathered their own experience in political involvement. Continuous education and full-time supervision guarantee a high level, both in terms of content and in terms of educational methods.

In addition, v.h.f. closely co-operates with schools, institutes of higher education, associations, youth organisations and foundations and develops educational offers that are specially tailored to each target group. Since 2005, the Association has also organised events as part of the EU Youth Programme.

v.f.h. is financially supported by the Land of Northrhine-Westphalia, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ), the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung) and the Land Agency for Civic Education in Northrhine-Westphalia (Landeszentrale für politische Bildung in Nordrhein-Westfalen).
“Mach meinen Kumpel nicht an!” e.V.

“Leave my buddy alone!”

c/o DGB Bildungswerk, Migration & Qualifizierung
Hans-Böckler-Str. 39; D-40476 Düsseldorf
Tel.: +49 211 4301–193; Fax: +49 211 4301–134
E-Mail: info@gelbehand.de; Internet: www.gelbehand.de

For more than 20 years, “Leave my buddy alone!” has been an active fighter against racism and an advocate for equal rights of male and female migrants at the workplace.

This trade union initiative focuses on information and prevention activities. It promotes social commitment on behalf of migrants, develops activities against racism and xenophobia at the workplace and supports actions against right-wing initiatives among young people and in schools. The ‘Yellow Hand’ shows: “We are against racism and xenophobia!”

The association’s roots go back to the “SOS racisme” initiative, which was launched in France in the 1980s. Using the Yellow Hand logo, the “ran” trade union magazine and the Trade Union Youth Organisation then set up “Leave my buddy alone!” in 1985 as an association against xenophobia and racism.
AKTIONCOURAGE e. V. – SOS Rassismus

CAMPAIGN COURAGE – SOS Racism

Kaiserstr. 201; D–53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 213061; Fax: +49 228 262978
E-Mail: info@aktioncourage.org; Internet: www.aktioncourage.org

CAMPAIGN COURAGE was founded in 1992 by citizens’ action groups, human rights groups, associations and individuals from all areas of society and political camps in response to the violent racism in Mölln, Solingen, Hoyerswerda and Rostock.

CAMPAIGN COURAGE demands and supports the societal participation and right of political co-determination for people of foreign origin. In order to reach this goal, the association provides information and education, as well as engaging in lobbying and press relations with parliaments and governments. CAMPAIGN COURAGE co-operates with human rights organisations and anti-racism groups.

With its work and projects, the association wants to enable meetings that are free from prejudice and fear, promote the willingness to understand and accept foreign identities in order to focus on joint values, and it wants to distance itself from extremist actions and tendencies.

With projects such as “School without racism – School with courage” (Schule ohne Rassismus – Schule mit Courage) and “Create diversity – Integration at kindergarden” (Vielfalt gestalten – Integration im Kindergarten), as well as the Information and Contact Point for Migration (Informations- und Kontaktstelle Migration, IKoM) and other campaigns, CAMPAIGN COURAGE fights against violent and open racism, as well as against subliminal and everyday racism. The campaign wants to face the challenges of various cultures and mentalities in Germany by analysing them, developing solutions, and, in problematic projects, making a contribution to more intensive integration.
Amadeu Antonio Stiftung

Amadeu Antonio Foundation

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Internet: www.amadeu-antonio-stiftung.de

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation’s objective is to promote a civil society, which vigorously opposes antidemocratic tendencies. In this context, it promotes initiatives and projects – primarily in Eastern Germany –, which actively address issues of right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism. In addition to projects providing support to victims, activities for democratic networking and democratic youth services, the Foundation supports local and regional initiatives, which provide information on right-wing extremism and racism through research, information, documentation and Internet sites, fight prejudices against foreigners, and contribute to a better understanding of the situation of refugees and migrants.

F. C. Flick Stiftung gegen Fremdenfeindlichkeit, Rassismus und Intoleranz

F.C. Flick Stiftung against Xenophobia, Racism and Intolerance

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E-Mail: info@stiftung-toleranz.de; Internet: www.stiftung-toleranz.de

The objective of the F. C. Flick Stiftung against Xenophobia, Racism and Intolerance is to foster an international frame of mind, tolerance in all areas of culture, and the philosophy of international understanding to counter rightwing extremism, intolerance and xenophobia, racism and youth violence in Germany. The Foundation sponsors education and training projects for children and young people and especially for the age group between 5 and 15. Its project are so designed that tolerance is taught and experienced in concrete terms.
Gesicht Zeigen! Aktion weltoffenes Deutschland e.V.

Show Your True Colours! Action for a Cosmopolitan Germany

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Show Your True Colours! Action for a Cosmopolitan Germany is an association with nationwide activities encouraging people to take action against xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism and any form of right-wing violence. Its objective is to strengthen the commitment of our civic society.

Show Your True Colours! is primarily active in three core areas: 1. Projects and actions; 2. Public campaigns; 3. Mediation activities.

Show Your True Colours! is exclusively funded by donations and membership fees – its multifaceted activities are possible only thanks to the support of numerous sponsors and many individuals who spontaneously get involved in the actions of Show Your True Colours! as unpaid volunteers.

Projektebüro “Dialog der Generationen”

Project Office “Intergenerational Dialogue”

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Internet: www.generationendialog.de

The “Initiative for Improving Intergenerational Dialog” (Initiative zur Verbesserung des Dialogs zwischen den Generationen) was started in 1994.

In 1997 the campaign by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familien, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) led to the establishment of the project office in Berlin. Since that time, it has been offering services to projects and programmes that bring generations together, and it has been tasked with providing networking, co-ordination, information and training services for the initiatives; its range of services is extensive.
step21 – Initiative für Toleranz und Verantwortung Jugend fordert! gemeinnützige GmbH

step21 – Initiative for tolerance and responsibility

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Since 1998, the non-profit initiative step21 has been supporting young persons in their commitment for a living democracy, tolerance and responsibility. step21 helps young people to actively and courageously take their professional and life plans into their own hands to become committed, responsible members of society. The principal motto is "Empowerment" (Help for self-help). The programmes of step21 are geared towards the real life of young people, are action-oriented and have a project- and media-oriented character.

step21 initiates educational programming and high-publicity youth projects. Key elements of the offer include the innovative “media boxes” and multimedia bus tours for schools and youth institutions, as well as a youth network with nationwide and regional projects, campaigns and meetings. Since its existence, step21 has worked with at least 7,000 schools and youth institutions and has involved more than 450,000 young people in its projects.

The step21 boxes [Clique] and [Future: Identity(Zukunft: Identität)] are innovative media packages for school and extracurricular youth work with young people between 12 and 18. Comics, soaps, feature films, concept books and worksheets as well as music, comic and radio software create versatile educational and methodical possibilities with creative lesson components. This enables their media-based and action-oriented use in schools and youth institutions. The working method of the media boxes is presented to pupils and educators directly on site with the nationwide [STEP on TOUR] bus tour.

In 2008, the third STEP 21 media box will be published. This is innovative lesson material for children of primary school age – with the title [World Images: Image Worlds (Weltbilder: Bilderwelten)]. The focal topics are intercultural competence and media competence. Methodically, image media are the focus to address the subject of intercultural relations. The box has a preventive effect by supporting teachers/educators in preventing the development of prejudices and by helping children to learn to treat each other with respect.

step21 offers young people varied possibilities to get involved in regional and nationwide projects, campaigns and competitions. The Initiative supports young persons in the implementation of their project ideas by specific assistance in project planning, organisation, public relations and documentation.

The non-profit limited company “Youth demands!” (Jugend fordert!), which was initiated in 1998, has been supported by the step21foundation since 2004. The project work and the use of the media boxes is enabled by “Bild helps: “A heart for children” (Bild hilft: Ein Herz für Kinder), foundation subsidies and co-operations with competent partners from science, economy and media. Bundespräsident Prof. Horst Köhler is the patron of the Initiative.
Stiftung “Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft”

Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future”

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The objective of the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future“, which was established in August 2001 as an independent foundation under public law, was to provide funding for the payment of benefits to former forced labourers and other victims of National Socialism through its partner organisations in order to send a forward-looking signal of the perpetual political and moral responsibility of state, society and the economy. This task was completed in 2007.

Furthermore, a “Remembrance and Future” Fund (Fonds “Erinnerung und Zukunft”) was set up within the Foundation. Its ongoing responsibility is to sponsor projects, which promote international understanding, the interests of survivors of the National Socialist regime, youth exchange, social justice, remembrance of the threat of totalitarian systems and despotism as well as international co-operation on humanitarian issues. The founders are the Federal government and the companies, which are members of the German Economy Foundation Initiative Steering Group (Stiftungsinitiative der deutschen Wirtschaft).
Stiftung MITARBEIT

Foundation for Participation

Bornheimer Str. 37; D-53111 Bonn
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The Foundation for Participation has set itself the task of promoting “democratic development from the bottom up” and regards itself as a service point for civic engagement outside political parties and large associations. It actively promotes the development, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of model approaches to increase the political participation of the citizens.

The Foundation for Participation encourages citizens’ initiatives and self-help groups through consultation and information, by arranging contacts and networking opportunities, by giving one-off seed grants and many other types of assistance and making practical working aids available to initiatives. At its conferences, the Foundation addresses problems of citizens' participation and presents new ideas and approaches – ranging from youth work to work with senior citizens, and from environmental protection to work with foreigners and against racism. The Foundation’s publications have a clear focus on practical relevance.
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WORK, YOUTH TRAVEL

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WORK, YOUTH TRAVEL

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AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e. V.

AFS Intercultural Programs

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AFS Intercultural Programs (AFS) is the oldest German exchange organisation and arranges long-term student and youth exchange programmes worldwide. AFS Germany is part of a worldwide network of AFS partners on all continents.

AFS was founded as early as 1914 as a voluntary ambulance service known as “American Field Service”. The first youth exchange between the USA and Germany took place in 1948. International understanding and a peaceful coexistence of all peoples form the mission of AFS, which is mostly run by volunteers and is recognized as a non-profit organisation.

AFS Intercultural Programs organises student exchange programmes involving 40 countries on all continents. The exchange students – boys and girls between 15 and 18 – spend one year with a host family and attend the local school. Through intensive briefing and de-briefing seminars, the participants are prepared for their host country’s culture and their stay with their host families. Learning a foreign language is not the exclusive objective of the programme; instead it also involves an in-depth familiarisation with another culture.

Every year, AFS places approx. 450 German students in the USA and 800 in other states; more than 700 foreign students come to Germany. AFS has also been entrusted with the organisation of the Parliamentary exchange programme between the German Federal Parliament and the US Congress (PPP – Parlamentarisches Patenschaftsprogramm). Using its own funds as well as funds raised in co-operation with many foundations and companies, AFS awards a large number of partial grants to students in need.

AFS offers volunteer services to young people over 18. Adults are invited to participate as volunteers in social or ecological projects, primarily in Latin America, Asia and Africa, but likewise in Europe and Oceania.

AFS is also a host for the Community Service Year and the “world-ward” (weltwärts) Volunteer Service of the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, BMZ).
Arbeitskreis gemeinnütziger Jugendaustauschorganisationen

Association of Non-profit Youth Exchange Organisations

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AJA is the umbrella association of non-profit youth exchange organisations in Germany. Supported by voluntary activities, its members carry out worldwide, long-term, educational student exchange programmes. Founded in 1993, AJA champions the promotion of long-term student exchanges as a means of cultural understanding. AJA wants to particularly draw the public's attention to the educational effect of its one-year student exchange and to communicate this more widely. In addition, AJA co-ordinates the exchange and co-operation of its affiliates and represents them vis-à-vis the media and politicians.

AJA's affiliates came together with the aim of establishing joint quality criteria for international youth exchanges. These describe the basic understanding of international youth exchanges in AJA, characterise the profile of the organisations and establish the guiding principles for programme implementation. The affiliates continuously develop these quality criteria in close co-operation and through a mutual exchange of experiences.

The work of the Association's affiliates focuses on the qualified selection and intensive preparation for a year abroad, accompanying seminars and debriefing as a supportive measure to facilitate the return of young people to their families. A special task is the selection and preparation of the host families who, due to their strong intercultural motivation, take in guest students free-of-charge.

AJA works for quality assurance in international student exchanges and, by publishing quality criteria, offers a guide. In addition, AJA strives to improve the general conditions in student exchanges, as well as the recognition of years at foreign schools in line with the shorter school attendance and the promotion of intercultural learning at schools in Germany. AJA is thus calling for stronger financial and conceptual support of long-term exchanges by politicians and the integration of student exchanges as an element of the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural foreign policy, and the targeted support of long-term student exchanges with the new EU Member States and other countries in Central and Southern Europe.

MEMBERS

- AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V.
- Experiment e.V.
- Deutsches YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING Komitee e.V.
- Partnership International e.V.
The Bridge/Most Foundation is dedicated to support and to promote German-Czech understanding and co-operation. With its events, the Foundation wants to create an open forum for all individuals seeking intercultural encounters of Czechs and Germans without reservations or preconditions.

The independent Foundation operates in four fields of activity. In the field of education and encounters, it runs a study centre in Dresden, the Bridge/Most Centre. Here it is host to international further education events and seminars for various target groups. One focus is on further education for multipliers in formal and informal youth work and adult education on issues such as intercultural communication, project management, fundraising.

In its cultural activities, the Foundation organises the annual “German-Czech Culture Days” (Deutsch-Tschechische Kulturtage). In the area of communication and networking, the Foundation provides Internet portals and various e-mailing lists with information on German-Czech issues. In its 'knowledge' area, it has organised exhibitions on various aspects of German-Czech relations since the 19th century.

The Foundation is located in Dresden and has field offices in Freiburg and Prague. The scientific/teaching concept of the Bridge/Most Foundation and the Bridge/Most Centre Dresden is open to co-operation with all interested groups and organisations.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelischer Jugendferiendienste e.V.

Federal Association of Protestant Holiday Services for the Young

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The Federal Association of Protestant Holiday Services for the Young, which was founded in 1968, is a non-profit registered association. It is a union of Protestant providers of children and youth trips. Members include Protestant tour operators, centres for Protestant youth work, other church offices and individuals. Since 2002, BEJ has been a specialist association of the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland, aej).

It is BEJ’s task to develop educational objectives for youth trips and to implement them in training and further education courses and working materials. In addition, as an institution working on a national level, it aims to influence the information flow between the individual affiliates, to procure information from outside, to co-represent the joint interests of Protestant youth tour operators and to support their joint public relations activities.

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Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Katholisches Jugendreisen

Federal Association of Catholic Holiday Services for the Young

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The Federal Association of Catholic Holiday Services for the Young, previously known as the Federal Working Group for Catholic Holiday Services for the Young, is a national interest group for organisations of the Catholic Church offering holiday services for children and young people.

Its objective is to build a bridge between the desire for interesting experiences and entertainment and organised recreational programmes within the framework of holiday travels. In this respect, the involvement of children and adolescents, practising responsibility and experiencing a sense of community play a key role. One of the fundamental principles is to give participants room to seek the deeper meaning of things and orientation.

The Association offers a variety of travel programmes for children and young people, including working camps, international meetings, adventure and nature tours, language learning tours and study travels. Above and beyond this, the members support church parish groups and other associations and groups in the organisation of holiday programmes and international meetings.

The Association is a member in various national bodies and represents the interests of Catholic holiday programmes and youth travel organisers. It actively supports the continuous upgrading of its range of services and places strong emphasis on the exchange of professional expertise between organisers, for example in the fields of PR work and the training of travel guides etc. It sponsors seminars on the advanced training of decision-makers for youth travel, prepares relevant materials for such activities and participates in projects sponsored by other organisations.

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BundesForum Kinder- und Jugendreisen e.V.

Federal Forum for Child and Youth Travel

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The Federal Forum for Child and Youth Travel is a specialist organisation for the area of child and youth travel. Its affiliates are national umbrella organisations, providers and associations, who base their work on common quality criteria for child and youth travel. The Federal Forum offers a platform for cross-provider discussions and innovation.

The mission of the association is to promote youth services in the area of child and youth recreation and educational foreign travel for young people. In the forum, the affiliated organisations primarily pursue content-related objectives, which they share irrespective of the type of provider or society. The affiliates retain their autonomy.

The objectives of the association are primarily realised by: representing its interests, presenting the special concerns of child and youth travel to third parties, exchanging views on the development and maintenance of educational content, planning and implementing projects, engaging in scientific research, planning and hosting further education events, conferences and information events, issuing publications, organising regular national working seminars for its members.

MEMBERS

► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelischer Jugendferiendienste e.V.
► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Katholisches Jugendreisen
► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendherholungszentren e.V.
► Bundesjugendwerk der Arbeitssweltfahrt e.V.
► Bundesverband Individual- und Erlebnispädagogik e.V.
► Das Reisennetz e.V.
► Deutsche Wanderjugend im Verband Deutscher Gebirgs- und Wandervereine e.V.
► Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk, Hauptverband für Jugendwander und Jugendherbergen e.V.
► Der Paritätische Gesamtverband e.V.
► Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund (DOSB) e.V.
► Evangelischer Arbeitskreis Freizeit, Erholung, Tourismus in der EKD
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Tel.: +49 511 2796–202, –203; Fax: +49 511 2796–722,
info@kieze.de, www.kieze.de
► Fachverband Deutscher Sprachreise-Veranstalter e.V. (FDSV)
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Tel.: +49 30 78953640, Fax: +49 30 78954313,
info@fdsv.de, www.fdsv.de
► Kolpingjugend im Kolpingwerk Deutschland
► Naturfreundjugend Deutschlands
► RUF Jugendreisen Trend Touristik GmbH
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info@ruf.de, www.ruf.de
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Tel.: +49 40 890154, Fax: +49 40 898639,
verband@schullandheim.de,
www.schullandheim.de
Völkerverständigung durch Begegnung e.V. – Ferienbörse für alle von 6 bis 26
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Tel.: +49 341 9606736; Fax: +49 341 9606726,
service@ferienboerse.org,
www.ferienboerse.org
► Volkswerke Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V.
Zeltlagerplatz e.V.
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Tel.: +49 30 26 030–30; Fax: +49 30 261030–50,
info@zeltlagerplatz.info,
www.zeltlagerplatz.info
ConAct – Coordination Centre for German-Israeli Youth Exchange

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E-Mail: info@conact-org.de; Internet: www.conact-org.de

ConAct – Coordination Centre for German-Israeli Youth Exchange was founded in 2001 following an initiative of the then Federal President aiming to support and expand German-Israeli youth exchanges. The basis for this bilateral co-operation is a joint memorandum of understanding signed by Dr. Christine Bergmann, the former Federal Minister for Youth, and the Israeli Minister of Education, Mr. Yossi Sarid, on the establishment of coordination offices in Germany and in Israel.

In co-operation with the various partners and members of several generations in the German-Israeli youth exchange – both in Germany and in Israel –, ConAct’s mission is to reflect on, renew and enlarge youth contacts. ConAct considers itself as a service centre and information hub for youth contacts between the two countries.

The Coordination Centre provides assistance in planning the content and realising the organisation of German-Israeli youth encounters and arranges contacts between the partners. In addition to expert conferences and meetings of group leaders on selected issues in German-Israeli youth exchange, ConAct manages the “Special German-Israeli Fund” (Sondermittel Deutschland – Israel) provided under the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation, and advises the parties in their search for additional funding opportunities for meetings. For youth service and youth work professionals, it also offers an internship programme. ConAct also provides information on the opportunities for a longer stay in Israel and primarily on volunteer services.

ConAct is an institution of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) and the Länder Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The local management is carried out by the Protestant Academy of Saxony-Anhalt (Evangelische Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt). The responsible partner office in Israel is the Israel Youth Exchange Council.

Partner office in Israel: Israel Youth Exchange Council, 157 Yigal Alon St., 67433 Tel Aviv, Tel.: +972 36969390, Fax: +972 36969382.
Das Reisenetz e.V.

The Travel Network

Köpenicker Str. 126; D–10179 Berlin
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E-Mail: info@reisenetz.org; Internet: www.reisenetz.org

The Travel Network was established in 1986 and is a Federal working party of more than 60 independent organisers of youth travel, youth exchange and new city tours. It is registered as a non-profit organisation and recognized as a national provider of youth services pursuant to the Child and Youth Services Act (Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz).

Its affiliated organisations react to young people’s current requests for travel and combine them with teaching concepts in order to develop offers, which are targeted to the young people’s needs and have a good price-benefit ratio. Self-determination and participation of the individual are encouraged. The appropriate scope for action and experience is provided by the group. In their training, qualified youth travel managers, accompanying staff are made aware of the social responsibility and ecological friendliness involved in travel.

The trips are a starting point for encounters between nations, and they are also intended to enhance the mutual understanding of the travellers and the population in the host countries. With this objective in mind, the organisers of youth meetings develop high-quality exchange programmes. The Travel Network informs about the conditions and opportunities for parent and child travel, international youth exchange, trips for youth groups, language course trips, sports trips and city tours. As the hosting organisation, the “New city tours” (Neue Städtetouren) working party arranges insights into German (urban) history and culture.

Internally, The Travel Network discusses concepts and social preconditions for youth travel and youth exchange and represents its positions at meetings, at trade fairs and in other structures. The Travel Network enjoys a lively exchange with scientists and practitioners in other organisations.

MEMBERS

The list of affiliates is available on the website www.reisenetz.org.
Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Kinderbegegnungen e.V.

Children’s international summer villages

c/o Aninia Schwanhäuser
Sophienstr. 10; D–10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 67303423;
E-Mail: secretary@de.cisv.org, Internet: www.cisv.de

The German division of Children’s International Summer Villages (CISV) is a voluntary organisation with cross-border activities for international understanding, the abolition of prejudices and peace among nations. CISV is free of racial, political or religious affiliations. The organisation was founded in 1950 by Dr. Doris Allen, a psychologist at the University of Cincinnati (USA). Until today, CISV has arranged meetings of approx. 150,000 participants from almost 80 nations around the world. Every year, approximately 7,500 participants are involved in a little less than 200 international activities.

CISV offers an opportunity to children and young people, adults and families for gaining experience through educational activities in international, national and local camps, and wants to promote lifelong friendships, effective communication between cultures and co-operative behaviour in order to contribute to a peaceful, fair and equitable global society. Events are organised by volunteers and structured in such a way that they provide personal, intercultural and international learning experiences. They therefore enable the participants to build their awareness for and a tolerant attitude towards individuals from other cultures and to develop the skills for living, working and playing in peace with other individuals. In all its international programmes, English is the official camp language.

The contact addresses of other offices are available at www.cisv.de.
Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk, Hauptverband für Jugendwandern und Jugendherbergen e.V.

German Youth Hostel Association – Central Association for Youth Hiking and Youth Hostels

Leonardo-da-Vinci-Weg 1; D–32760 Detmold
Tel.: +49 5231 9936–0; Fax: +49 5231 9936–66
E-Mail: hauptverband@djh.org; Internet: www.djh.de

The German Youth Hostel Association was established in 1909 as a national, democratic and federal association. The operators of the youth hostels are the regional Länder associations, as independently registered associations and supporting members of the umbrella association.

DJH promotes youth hiking, their identification with nature and their home, their environmental awareness and their recreation as an element of youth welfare and preventative health care, hiking by families with children, as well as recreational and educational trips for young people so that they get to know their own country and foreign countries.

DJH is open to all young people in Germany and abroad as a non-profit, self-supporting association, irrespective of the members’ race, religion, world view or political party, and works for mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence. In this sense, DJH promotes meetings between young people in Germany and abroad, their discussions, sport, games and other meaningful activities in their free time and holidays, school hikes and stays at school country hostels.

The German Youth Hostel Association organises study seminars and training and continuous education programmes for young people, employees of youth welfare providers and those responsible for vocational and non-vocational youth education. In addition to varied sports, musical, creative, ecological and technological leisure activities, the DJH also offers inexpensive recreational and educational trips for young people to more than 40 countries in the world.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

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info-stuttgart-bv@djh.de,
www.jugendherberge.de/lvb/bad-wuertt

Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk, Landesverband Bayern e.V.
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mail@djh-bayern.de,
www.jugendherberge.de/lvb/bayern

Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk, Landesverband Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.
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info@djh-wl.de, www.djh-wl.de
Deutsches Nationalkomitee für internationale Jugendarbeit

German National Committee for International Youth Work

c/o Deutscher Bundesjugendring
Mühlendamm 3; D–10178 Berlin
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The German National Committee for International Youth Work (DNK) was established in 1963 and is a working group formed by the German Federal Youth Council, the German Sports Youth and the Council of Political Youth Organisations.

DNK’s mission is to conclude agreements on joint international activities of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring), the German Sports Youth (Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund) and the Council of Political Youth Organisations (Ring Politischer Jugend) in order to ensure the representation of German youth organisations on the multinational level. DNK is not a coordinating structure for bilateral relations in the youth field.

DNK is a member of the European Youth Forum, whose mission is to co-operate with the European Union, the Council of Europe and the UN organisation and to alert them to the positions of European youth. In close coordination with their Länder youth councils in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Schleswig-Holstein, DNK is involved in the Baltic Youth Co-operation. In addition to and together with the German Society for the United Nations, it has organised a programme of “Youth Delegates to the UN General Assembly”.

The German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring) takes care of the tasks of the DNK secretariat.

MEMBERS

- Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund (DOSB) e.V.
- Deutscher Bundesjugendring
- Ring Politischer Jugend
Deutsches YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING Komitee e.V.

German Youth for Understanding Committee

Averhoffstr. 10; D–22085 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 227002–0; Fax: +49 40 227002–27
E-Mail: info@yfu.de; Internet: www.yfu.de

The German Youth for Understanding Committee (YFU) was established in 1957 by former participants of various German-American exchange programmes.

The association organises and assists long-term secondary school student exchanges on a worldwide basis. Together with YFU organisations in more than 40 partner countries worldwide, it advocates an intercultural life and active international understanding. Each year, the organisation sends approx. 1,200 German secondary school students abroad and is the German host for more than 450 young people from other countries. The 15- to 18-year-old exchange students spend a school year abroad, where they experience everyday life in their host country.

Since its establishment, YFU Germany has organised and supported an exchange year for more than 45,000 young people. YFU is a non-profit organisation and recognized as a voluntary youth service provider.

YFU awards scholarships to young people, whose parents are unable to fund a one-year student exchange abroad. Since 1984, YFU has also organised the exchange of young people within the Parliamentary Sponsors Programme (Parlamentarischen Patenschafts-Programms, PPP), a scholarship programme initiated by the German Federal Parliament, the Bundestag, and the US Congress.
The Franco-German Youth Office (DFJW or OFAJ) is an international organisation for Franco-German co-operation, which was founded on 22 January 1963 with the signature of the Élysée Treaty, whose aim is to promote relations between German and French young people. Since 1963, DFJW has enabled more than 7.5 million young Germans and French to participate in approximately 270,000 exchange programmes. Every year, DFJW provides funding to more than 11,000 encounters (more than 6,500 group exchange programmes and approximately 4,300 individual exchange programmes) with a participation of approximately 200,000 young people.

DFJW co-operates with a large number of partners according to the subsidiarity principle. Its objective is to intensify relations between children, young people and young adults and between persons responsible for youth work in both countries. Important aspects in this context are education about the partner’s culture and promotion of intercultural learning. DFJW also offers support for qualification programmes and fosters joint projects for civic commitment. It aims to create an awareness of the special responsibility of France and Germany in Europe, and it strives to foster and deepen the interest in learning the partner’s language.

The Franco-German Youth Office is a competence centre for the governments of both countries and acts as an adviser and mediator between the various levels of public administration and civic society players in both Germany and France.
Deutsch-Japanische Jugendgesellschaft e. V.

German-Japanese Youth Society

Schillerstr. 4-6, D-10625 Berlin
E-Mail: info@djjg.org; Internet: www.djjg.org

The German-Japanese Youth Society (DJJG) was founded in 2006 by participants of the programme “Hallo Japan 2005” of the Association of German-Japanese Societies (VDJG). VDJG currently comprises 51 DJG societies with a total of more than 7,000 members.

All these societies follow the tradition of the ‘Wa-doku-kai’, which was founded as early as 1890 by Japanese and German students in Berlin and was the first society of Japanese and Germans.

Its goals include the promotion of contacts and co-operation of members, the organisation of joint and partnership-based activities, the co-operation with institutions, companies and partners in Germany and Japan as well as with organisations with similar objectives. Specific activities include e.g. organising annual youth summits, holding work experience programmes, expanding contacts with institutions, companies and partners in Germany and Japan.

The DJJG is a member of the Working Party of Central German Youth Associations (Arbeitskreis zentraler Jugendverbände).
Deutsch-Polnisches Jugendwerk / Polsko-Niemiecka Współpraca Młodzieży

German-Polish Youth Office

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Internet: www.dpjw.org

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Internet: www.pnwm.org

The German-Polish Youth Office (DPJW) is an organisation that was created by the Governments of Germany and Poland in order to increase and intensify youth contacts between Germany and Poland. When the German-Polish Treaty on Good Neighbourliness, Friendship and Co-operation was signed on 17 June 1991, the Youth Ministers also signed the Agreement on the German-Polish Youth Office.

Since this time, DPJW has been acting as a joint non-governmental institution in both countries and is responsible for youth exchanges, including both pupils and young people not attending school. DPJW is financed by both governments, and all its bodies have staff from both nations: the supervisory board (German-Polish Youth Council/Deutsch-Polnischer Jugendrat), the management and the two offices in Potsdam and Warsaw.

DPJW aims to initiate meetings between young Germans and Poles and to promote and expand existing youth contacts. Thus, it works to improve mutual understanding, to help to overcome prejudices and contribute to reconciliation between Germans and Poles. DPJW supports young people from Germany and Poland, particularly in their joint endeavours to create a free Europe.

DPJW does not aim to be solely responsible for youth exchanges, but above all it wants to support those who take responsibility for such a project themselves (help for self-help). Such projects are supported financially and with advice and suggestions. “Encounter” (Begegnung) is the benchmark for support that means that young people from both countries are constantly participating in the joint programme. The contents of the projects are not prescribed by the DPJW, but the partners should be free to define these themselves.

DPJW supports meetings between young Germans and Poles between the ages of 12 and 26, work experience placements, further education events, memorial trips, publications, media and more. Public and non-public organisations, initiatives (including those without the status of a “legal entity”) can make an application. DPJW is not allowed to support scientific programmes, any kind of construction projects, commercial programmes, exclusively tourist events or institutional costs (staff).

The Potsdam office is responsible for extracurricular youth exchanges; the office in Warsaw oversees the school exchanges.
Deutsch-Russischer Austausch e.V.

German-Russian Exchange Association

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E-Mail: info@austausch.org; Internet: www.austausch.org

The German-Russian Exchange Association (DRA) was established in Berlin in 1992. The objective of the Association is to support the development of pluralist democratic life in Russia, in Germany and in other European countries through intercultural exchange. It fights for the realisation of civic, political, social and cultural liberties and rights. Consequently, DRA promotes self-initiative and the development and activities of independent non-governmental organisations working for a humane treatment of disadvantaged social groups, social commitment and independent media coverage. The Association’s activities are meant to contribute to a sustainable improvement of German-Russian relations among the peoples of both countries.

For this purpose, the Association aims at broadly based awareness and public relations activities in school and adult education, it provides information and establishes contacts to promote the development of long-term partnerships. Together with its co-operating offices in Berlin and St Petersburg and its partners in Moscow, Kiev, Gomel, Minsk and Nazran, it supports especially small organisations and groups such as grassroots initiatives, human rights organisations, non-governmental social institutions and independent media to support the development of a widespread network of German-Russian connections to democratic and social structures. In other Russian and Ukrainian cities, it has established support centres for non-profit organisations. DRA also offers further education and expert exchange programmes for youth work and social work professionals and arranges contacts to western partners. These programmes are both bilateral and multilateral.

In its volunteer programmes, DRA arranges internships and work experiences in Germany, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, it provides preparatory information and organises support seminars. The volunteers are placed primarily in non-governmental organisations working with the disabled, women, children, young people and senior citizens as well as human rights organisations and environmental organisations. DRA also offers opportunities to spend a work experience period with a commercial organisation.

DRA is affiliated to the Paritätische Gesamtverband (Der Paritätische Gesamtverband).
Deutsch-Tschechischer Zukunftsfonds (Stiftungsfonds) / Česko-německý fond budoucnosti

German-Czech Future Fund (Foundation Fund)

Na Kazance 634/7; CZ-17100 Praha 7
Tel.: +420 28 38505-12, -13, -14; Fax: +420 28 3850503
E-Mail: info@fb.cz; Internet: www.zukunftsfonds.cz

As an interstate institution, the German-Czech Future Fund is a specific result of the “German-Czech Declaration on Mutual Relations and their Future Development” of 21 January 1997. With the signing of the articles of association by the German and the Czech government, the Future Fund was founded on 29 December 1997 in accordance with Czech law as a foundation fund with its headquarters in Prague.

It is the mission of the Future Fund to promote understanding between Germans and Czechs in many different ways, increase the number of mutual meetings and increase the forms of co-operation by supporting joint projects. As a result, the German-Czech Future Fund provides funds to finance projects in the field of youth, school and education, in the social sector, minorities, ecology, culture, science, publications, dialogue events and construction measures that are of joint interest to both the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. The field of youth is among the most important areas supported by the Future Fund. Further information on the field of youth exchanges can be obtained from Tandem – Coordination Centre of German-Czech Youth Exchanges (Tandem – Koordinierungszentrum Deutsch-Tschechischer Jugendaustausch).
Deutsch-Türkisches Jugendwerk e. V.

German-Turkish Youth Association

Sossenheimer Weg 176; D–65936 Frankfurt/Main
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E-Mail: info@dtjw.de; Internet: www.dtjw.de

The German-Turkish Youth Association (DTJW) was founded in 1995. Through its education activities and encounters, it wants to contribute to German-Turkish understanding. In this spirit, DTJW promotes German-Turkish youth exchanges, supports the entire range of German-Turkish youth meetings and plays a coordinating, innovative and supporting role for organisations working in this field. DTJW wants to establish bi-national youth education and meeting centres in both countries and, in these actions, it takes its orientation from the Child and Youth Services Act in its currently valid version. DTJW wants to act as a national coordination and contact centre for German-Turkish relations in youth policy co-operation and especially regards itself as an organisation representing the interests of migrant youth. It advocates co-determination and co-decision for young people in both countries and it is free of party political affiliations.
Die Eine Welt e. V.

One World

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The Association One World was founded in 1984 as a non-profit organisation. Its mission is to provide more travel and experience opportunities through international meetings and to promote direct contacts between young people from different countries. The Association considers itself as an information service for young people planning a stay abroad or seeking an exchange with other cultures.

For this purpose, the Association publishes an annual brochure “Meeting point One World” (information and addresses on international meetings and stays abroad for young people). This information brochure presents various organisers of international meetings, language study trips, work camps as well as au-pair, internship and voluntary service positions.

The Association also offers individual information and counselling on stays abroad for young people and adults, provides information on stays abroad and funding opportunities in schools, youth centres and other public institutions. At irregular intervals, One World organises international meetings and training courses.

The One World association is a local partner in the Eurodesk European youth information network. The network wants to facilitate the access to Europe for young people and youth service multipliers and to assist them in using the opportunities and possibilities of cross-border activities.
Experiment e. V.

Experiment
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At the same time as the “Experiment in International Living” was founded in the USA by Donald B Watt in 1932, the German section commenced its work, but it only founded Experiment, a non-profit association focussing on the intercultural exchange between people of all age groups, races and religions in 1952. It aims to promote international understanding through intercultural stays worldwide and thus to attain and keep peace. The most important part of all programmes is the stay in a host family. According to the beliefs of Experiment, this is the best way to experience culture, tradition, public holidays and everyday life in a foreign country as well as intercultural communication.

As an exchange organisation, the association offers secondary school students between the ages of 15 and 18 a 3-to-10-month exchange in currently 12 countries worldwide. In addition to the USA and Ireland, these include e.g. Ecuador, Thailand, Japan and Brazil. For many years, as part of the parliamentary sponsorship programme, Experiment has also selected secondary school students for the Bundestag who are given a grant to spend a year in the USA. At the same time, Experiment also arranges for foreign secondary school students to spend an exchange year at a German school.

Experiment is also active in the field of volunteer services: as a recognised provider for both the European Voluntary Service (Europäischer Freiwilligendienst) as well as the Other Service Abroad (Anderer Dienst im Ausland), the association offers young adults the opportunity to perform voluntary work in social, ecological, educational and education/development policy projects in 26 countries worldwide. Latin America, Africa and Asia are the primary destinations, but it is also possible to perform voluntary services in New Zealand and Turkey. The Other Service Abroad can be performed through Experiment in Ecuador, Argentina and Chile.

A continuation of the au-pair programme is the demi-pair programme, which was developed by Experiment. Participants look after the children of host families for 20 hours in this programme and can use the rest of the time to learn languages or to pursue their education.

As intercultural exchange should not be limited to pupils and young adults, however, Experiment also offers individual stays in host families worldwide. These programmes are offered in almost all programme countries, irrespective of the participants’ age, and offer the opportunity to experience the other culture from another viewpoint.

To promote the exchange of former programme participants from various sectors, annual alumni meetings and meetings or workshops are held in order to promote the contacts between participants.
Gesellschaft für übernationale Zusammenarbeit e. V.

Association for Cross-national Co-operation

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The activities of the Association for Cross-national Co-operation (G. Ü. Z.) and its French sister organisation, the Bureau International de Liaison et de Documentation (B. I. L. D.), aim at promoting Franco-German dialogue as a motor for Europe. They want to make a contribution so that France and Germany will jointly design their future in our European house.

Its efforts focus on leading young people towards developing a better understanding for the German or, respectively, the French partner in order to prepare them for their responsibility for the development of a new Europe, freedom and democracy. Another objective is to inform young people in both countries about each other’s real lives and perspectives in order to encourage a factual, forward-looking discussion, and to coordinate activities and actions of groups, which work for the same objectives in France, in Germany and in other European countries.

Its concrete programmes include Franco-German youth meetings with language courses for young people aged between 10 and 19 years in France and in Germany, hosting Franco-German seminars on socio-cultural subjects for young adults between 18 and 27, organising information trips, studies abroad, bilateral and trilateral colloquia as well as lecture series. Its programme is supplemented by training courses for group leaders or group interpreters for Franco-German encounters.
Heinz Schwarzkopf-Stiftung “Junges Europa”

Heinz Schwarzkopf Foundation “Young Europe”

Sophienstr. 28-29; D–10179 Berlin
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E-Mail: info@heinz-schwarzkopf-stiftung.de
Internet: www.heinz-schwarzkopf-stiftung.de

The Heinz Schwarzkopf Foundation “Young Europe” sponsors the personal development of young people through its activities for promoting youth and public education. At present, it sponsors three types of scholarships: it awards travelling scholarships as a contribution towards a better understanding among the peoples of Europe and better insights into the efforts for European integration. The Foundation awards the Estonia Study Grant (Studienbeihilfe Estland) to support the university studies of Estonian students in Germany and their integration into the European Union, and it awards the “Young European of the Year” (Junger Europäer des Jahres)” prize.
ICJA Volunteer Exchange Worldwide

Stralauer Allee 20E; D-10245 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 21238252; Fax: +49 30 21238253
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The ICJA Volunteer Exchange Worldwide (previously: International Christian Youth Exchange) was founded in 1949 as a youth exchange programme between the USA and Germany. In addition to the original goal of contributing to international understanding, the integration of further partner countries added significance to development policy topics. The umbrella association International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE) includes partner committees from 36 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Oceania. In 1987, ICYE was presented the “Peace Messenger” award by the United Nations. ICJA dispatches young people between 18 and 28, as well as older volunteers, to its partner committees and simultaneously accepts young people as members from these countries. An exchange generally lasts one year, in exceptional cases 6 months, and for volunteers from the age of 28 it can also last 3 months. The stay is combined with a voluntary service in mainly social, but also political or ecological projects; the accommodation is mostly in host families or directly in the project.

By participating in the exchange programme, young people of various social, religious and ethnic origins are offered the opportunity to gain an insight into the cultural, social and political circumstances of a host country. The participation prerequisite lies in the motivation of preparation and the openness to deal with the respective country. In addition to the normal ICJA programme, the association offers 5 more types of programmes:

- Civil service abroad (as a Voluntary Social Year abroad, which is recognised as a civil service substitute; only for young men)
- The European Voluntary Service (EVS), a programme within Europe that is supported by the EU
- The international voluntary services (IfL) for various stages of life, a multi-generational programme for volunteers between the ages of 18 and 80
- The weltwärts (Out into the world) programme, supported by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) and as part of this programme
- The Other Service Abroad (ADiA), a social service abroad, which is recognised as an alternative to military service and can be performed instead of a regular non-military service
IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany

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IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (formerly: International Youth Exchange and Visitors’ Service of the Federal Republic of Germany) was established in 1967 and is a central specialist agency for international youth work, youth policy and youth information. IJAB works on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend), the European Commission, its member organisations and other central bodies responsible for child and youth services.

With its activities, the International Youth Service wants to make a contribution towards achieving mutual understanding between all young people from various countries and cultures, towards promoting the acquisition of intercultural skills, towards supporting informal educational processes and towards strengthening the international knowledge transfer, both in child and youth services, and in child and youth policy.

In order to live up to these claims, IJAB has been commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth to carry out high quality exchange programmes and language courses for child and youth service professionals in the context of the Federal Republic of Germany’s bilateral and multilateral relations. These programmes are intended for full-time and voluntary specialists working in child and youth services, and contribute to a bilateral knowledge transfer, as well as to the development of long-term contacts and co-operation. The programmes include study visits and job shadowing, specialist conferences, conferences for bodies responsible for child and youth services, and in child and youth policy.

A prerequisite for successful intercultural learning processes is adequate continuing and further education of the staff employed in international youth work. The training and consultancy provided by IJAB contributes to the further education of professionals and supports quality development processes in all areas of international youth work. This applies to activities and programmes for au-pair services, voluntary services, specialist and school exchanges, job shadowing, practical placements and work camps. With its “International Certificates” (Nachweise International), IJAB contributes to the recognition of non-formal learning in international youth work (www.open-the-world.net).

IJAB is also active in the provision of information for young people and professionals. The German National Agency of the European Eurodesk network is attached to IJAB (www.eurodesk.de) and informs young people and multipliers about EU funding programmes and complementary national funding resources. Furthermore, Eurodesk provides a service portfolio for young people and subject-specific materials for a stay abroad (www.rausvonzuhaus.de). The interactive Youth Information Network helps in the networking, developing and qualification of youth information in Germany. It is run by IJAB in co-operation with key players in the field of youth information at local, land and federal levels (www.jugendinfonetz.de). Finally, the ‘Youth online’ (Jugend online) project is intended to familiarise young people with the opportunities and possibilities
offered by the Internet and the new media through the netzcheckers.de portal (www.netzcheckers.de), and to promote their creative and responsible use of these media.

Professionals in international youth work as well as child and youth services find a key source of information in the regularly updated “Database on International Youth Work” (Datenbank für Internationale Jugendarbeit, www.dija.de), which helps them in planning and preparing international activities and projects. The multi-media and multi-language “Information System on Child and Youth Services in Germany” (Infosystem Kinder- und Jugendhilfe in Deutschland) provides an overview of the general conditions, structures, tasks and objectives of child and youth (services) policy in Germany (www.kinder-jugendhilfe.info). Together with the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ), IJAB provides the Portal for Specialists in Child and Youth Services (Fachkräfteportal der Kinder-und Jugendhilfe, www.jugendhilfeportal.de) which is sponsored jointly by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the Working Party of the Highest Länder Youth and Family Authorities (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Obersten Landesjugend- und Familienbehörden). Together with ‘transfer’ (transfer) and the GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit), IJAB also participates in the Cooperation for Youth and Development International (Kooperation Jugend und Entwicklung International, www.jugendi.de).

In “Forum 21”, the European Journal on Youth Policy which is published in three languages, the “Forum Youth Work International” (Forum jugendarbeit International) and other specialist publications, IJAB provides regular and practical information on issues and developments in youth policy and youth work worldwide. In addition, the bi-annual “IJAB Journal” presents the results of the work of the International Youth Service against the background of political events at the national, European and international level.

The German National Agency for YOUTH for Europe has been attached to IJAB since 1989. As a partner in a European network of 33 agencies, YOUTH for Europe implements the EU’s Youth in Action programme in Germany on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the European Commission.

MEMBERS

I. STATUTORY BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES, REPRESENTED BY

Working Party of the Highest Youth and Family Authorities of the Länder

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Unterricht und Kultus
Salvatorstr. 2, D–80333 München,
Tel. +49 89 2186–0,
poststelle@stmuk.bayern.de,
www.stmuk.bayern.de

Sozialministerium Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
C/o Abt. Jugend und Familie,
Friedrich-Engels-Str. 47, D–19061 Schwerin,
Tel. +49 385 588–0, Fax +49 385 588–9022,
poststelle@sm.mv-regierung.de,
www.sozial-mv.de

Leading Municipal Associations at Federal Level

Deutscher Städtetag
Deutscher Landkreistag
Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund

II. ASSOCIATIONS OF STATUTORY AND VOLUNTARY BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ

III. YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, REPRESENTED BY

Deutscher Bundesjugendring
Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund (DOSB) e.V.
Ring Politischer Jugend
IV. SPECIALIST ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH VARIOUS FIELDS OF CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

Central Organisations concerned with Cultural Youth Education
- Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung e.V.

Central Organisations concerned with Political Youth Education
- ARBEIT UND LEBEN – Arbeitskreis für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft katholisch-sozialer Bildungswerke in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
- Evangelische Trägergruppe für gesellschaftspolitische Jugendbildung
- Verband der Bildungszentren im ländlichen Raum e.V.

Central Organisations concerned with Socio-Educational Provision for Young People
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.
- Internationaler Bund (IB) Freier Träger der Jugend-, Sozial- und Bildungsarbeit e.V.

Central Offices of Youth Voluntary Services and Youth Social Services
- Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e.V.
- Arbeitskreis internationaler Gemeinschaftsdienste in Deutschland e.V.
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Internationale Soziale Dienste e.V.
- Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste Bundesverein e.V. – Gesellschaft für internationale und politische Bildung

Central Non-Profit Making Youth Travel Services
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelischer Jugendferiendienste e.V.
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Katholisches Jugendreisen
- Das Reisenetz e.V.

Youth Hostels and other Non-Profit Making Organisations Offering Accommodation for Young People
- Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk, Hauptverband für Jugendwandern und Jugendherbergen e.V.

Other Central Organisations concerned with Child and Youth Services
- Arbeitskreis gemeinnütziger Jugendausstauschorganisationen
- Verband für interkulturelle Arbeit – VIA e.V.

GUEST STATUS
- Förderverein für Jugend und Sozialarbeit e.V.
Institut für europäische Partnerschaften und internationale Zusammenarbeit e.V.

Institute for European Partnerships and International Co-operation

Adenauerallee 176; D-53113 Bonn
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Founded 1990, the Institute for European Partnerships and International Co-operation (IPZ) is a non-profit association and successor of the Working Group of International Partnership (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Internationale Partnerschaft), which was founded in 1982. IPZ's objective is to promote international understanding.

IPZ advises local authorities, partnership committees, schools, youth organisations and educational institutions in practical matters of international co-operation, partnership matters and work in Europe. It supports partnership-based co-operation and international connections, e.g. by its own seminars, European forums, youth workshops, international conferences, working conferences and information events, which particularly focus on the further training of decision-makers in partnership work. IPZ provides additional information via publications such as work aids, expert opinions and documentations, as well as Europe material for schools. Furthermore, IPZ organises travelling exhibitions on various topics.

The members are provided with free information via the bimonthly email newspaper “Modern Europe – Partnership news” (Europa aktuell – partnerschafts-news), which has been published since 2000, as well as a newsletter. Youths can be nominated for the email network “Youth” and invited to international European youth forums.

While carrying out its tasks, the Institute works with government and non-governmental organisations, the German Council of the European Movement (Deutscher Rat der Europäischen Bewegung), with German-foreign societies, the Commission of the European Communities, the Europe Union Germany (Europa Union Deutschland), with European academies and European institutes, the Franco-German Youth Office (Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk) and numerous other institutions. IPZ is a member of the European Movement (Europäische Bewegung).
The International Youth Exchange of the Diakonie Social Welfare Agency of the United Methodist Church (idje) was founded in 1963 and is an ecumenical youth exchange programme of the United Methodist Church. idje’s objectives centre around international learning, social commitment and Christian experience. Its programmes include the placement of volunteers with social services such as recreation centres, facilities for persons with disabilities and senior citizens’ homes.

Young individuals between 18 and 25 years of age belonging to a church, a congregation or youth group of a Christian denomination may participate, when their commitment encourages them to participate in a 12-month youth exchange programme involving their placement in church-run social service facilities. Partner countries: Europe and Israel, Brazil.

idje is affiliated to the Action Committee Service for Peace (Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden) and, through the Youth Service of the United Methodist Church (Jugendwerk der Evangelisch-methodistischen Kirche), it is also affiliated to the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland).
Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin

Japanese-German Centre Berlin

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Tel.: +49 30 83907 0; Fax: +49 30 83907 220
E-Mail: jdzb@jdzb.de; Internet: www.jdzb.de

The non-profit foundation for the Japanese-German Centre Berlin (JDZB) was founded on 15 January 1985 following a suggestion of Mr. Kohl and Mr. Nakasone, the then heads of government of Germany and Japan. Pursuant to its deed of foundation, the JDZB mission is “to promote and to strengthen Japanese-German and international scientific and cultural co-operation and its interaction with business.” The promotion of Japanese-German co-operation also includes the other nations of Europe and East Asia.

JDZB focuses its activities on scientific conferences, seminars and workshops covering all scientific disciplines. Every year, JDZB organises 20 to 30 projects – partly as co-operation projects – with some being realised in Japan. In its conferences, JDZB addresses topical issues, but it also deals with issues of long-term relevance. Exhibitions, concerts and readings are another element of JDZB’s activities in the cultural sphere. JDZB offers Japanese-language courses and has a modern reference library. JDZB publishes a documentation of its events in various series of publications.

Its department for German-Japanese Youth Exchange (Abteilung Deutsch-Japanischer Jugendaustausch, DJJA) is the successor of the coordination office for German-Japanese youth exchange, which was established with JDZB at the end of 1997. It is an information office for individuals who are interested in initiatives for bilateral youth exchange and offers the following specialist programmes:
- German-Japanese Exchange Programme for Young Employees,
- German-Japanese Exchange of Youth Leaders,
- German-Japanese Study Programme for Youth Work Professionals.

All three programmes are carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) and receive funding under the Children and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes, KJP).

Sponsored by Daimler AG, the Takenoko Fund was established to support independent initiatives for the exchange of secondary school students. The DJJA department is in charge of its administration.
Ostseesekretariat für Jugendangelegenheiten

Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs

c/o Landesjugendring Schleswig-Holstein e.V.
Holtenauer Str. 99; D-24105 Kiel
Tel.: +49 431 8009847; Fax: +49 431 8009841
E-Mail: info@balticsea-youth.org; Internet: www.balticsea-youth.org

The Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs was founded with the aim in mind of developing youth policy co-operation in the Baltic Sea region in view of developing young peoples’ common regional identity and an understanding for their common cultural heritage, and of promoting the active participation of young individuals in the development of democratic and pluralist societies in the states of the Baltic Sea region. The activities of the Secretariat are determined according to the action plan adopted by the first Baltic Conference of Ministers for Youth (Visby 1998): the role of youth participation and voluntary youth service providers in the development of democratic, tolerant civil societies; enhancing youth employability through non-formal education in out-of-school youth work; providing youth policy contributions to other political fields, especially with regard to sustainability and environmental protection; co-operating with other sub-regions including the Barents Sea region, the Mediterranean region and South-Eastern Europe in a European setting.

The Baltic Sea Secretariat discharges these duties by disseminating information and coordinating the joint youth policy activities of public and private youth service providers. As a contact, it promotes the transfer of know-how and information between non-governmental organisations and political structures from the region, and supports joint projects in the Baltic Sea region. It evaluates their co-operation and plans new initiatives at its own conferences. The Baltic Sea Secretariat supports the development of an interactive youth server and provides information on funding opportunities for youth co-operation. Existing information resources are updated and opportunities are explored for national and international funding options outside the EU YOUTH programme. The Secretariat’s “NEWS” newsletter provides regular information on current developments and projects.

The following youth policy players in the Baltic Sea region are supported and coordinated by the Baltic Sea Secretariat: national ministries responsible for young people, national agencies of the EU YOUTH programme, networks of regional and local representatives for youth affairs, national youth councils (Baltic Sea Youth Forum), youth projects, a network of youth researchers and international organisations. On the institutional level, the Secretariat co-operates with the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Baltic 21 (Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region), in the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the Baltic Sea Sub-State Council (BSSSC), the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs is collocated with the Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein (Landesjugendring Schleswig-Holstein). Its steering committee is made up of representatives of the ministries responsible for youth in the eleven Baltic Sea States.
The Educational Exchange Service (PAD) is the only state institution commissioned by the Länder to organise international exchange and cooperation for the school environment. It is a department in the Bonn Secretariat of the Permanent Conference of Länder Ministers for Culture and Education in the Federal Republic of Germany (Ständige Konferenz der Kultusminister der Länder in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland), and, on behalf of the Ministries for Culture and Education, it has arranged European and international activities in the school environment since 1952. Since 1995, it has also been a National Agency for EU programmes.

Its activities are intended to foster intercultural dialogue and international understanding, to promote European and international competence, to promote language learning and openness towards the German language and culture abroad. Cooperation between institutions and individuals from the school environment, which its programmes enable on the European and international levels, are intended to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

The internationalisation of schools at all levels, in all types of schools and on all subjects, is a concrete and necessary contribution to quality assurance and school development in the 21st century.
Partnership International e.V.

Partnership International

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Partnership International is a non-profit organisation for international meetings and exchange programmes. It was established by former Fulbright scholars in the 1960s.

For more than 45 years, Partnership International has offered exchange programmes for young people. The long-term programmes (three, five, or ten months) take them to the United States of America, the Republic of Ireland, England, and South Africa. Short-term programmes (2 to 4 weeks) take participants to the United States or China. This gives young people an opportunity to gain insights into a different culture, get to know different school systems, and actively participate in their host family’s lives. They gather valuable experiences which can be determining for their personal and professional development and are indispensable for becoming an open-minded personality. The organisation’s goal is for young people learn to deal with the problems of our age in a more open and tolerant way through getting to know a new socio-cultural environment and comparing their own set of values with those of others.

Partnership International is a member of the International Confederation of Principals (ICP), the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), the Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT) and the Association of Non-Profit Youth Exchange Organisations (Arbeitskreis gemeinnütziger Jugendaustauschorganisationen, AJA).
Schüleraustausch EN FAMILLE Deutschland e. V.

Student Exchange EN FAMILLE Germany

Eythstr. 11; D-89075 Ulm
Tel.: +49 731 69760
E-Mail: info@enfamille.de, Internet: www.enfamille.de

Student Exchange EN FAMILLE Germany organises 6-month exchanges for children between the ages of 8 and 10 to France and England. The exchange is on a mutual basis. The association works on a voluntary basis. Staff are exclusively parents who have experienced such an exchange in their own families.
Sonnenberg-Kreis Gesellschaft zur Förderung internationaler Zusammenarbeit e. V.

International House Sonnenberg – Sonnenberg Association

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Internet: www.sonnenberg-international.de

The Sonnenberg Association (SK) is a private provider of international extracurricular educational work in Europe. In its conference centre, the International House Sonnenberg (IHS) in the Upper Harz region, conferences, seminars and workshops are held for adults, young people, families, groups of secondary school students, associations and companies, frequently as international and intercultural meetings, sometimes also in accordance with the Act on Educational Leave (Bildungsrurlaubsgesetz). The focus is placed on continuing education for teachers, as well as specialist conferences on current educational and social matters.

As a home college of adult education in accordance with the Lower Saxon Act on Adult Education (Erwachsenenbildungsgesetz) and as a Europe House, the Association’s work focuses on political education topics such as human rights, security politics, globalisation, integration and societal responsibility. The participants are provided with information on educational and social problems, the working world and leisure activities, the economy and the environment, current and historic contexts. In addition, discussions are held and the participants are encouraged to personally get actively involved in society. Diversity of methods and active work in groups are particular features of the Sonnenberg educational concept. A further focus is courses to experience nature and ecological matters. In addition, other organisations also hold various host events in the International House Sonnenberg, which range from counselling to educational supervision to complete organisation, thus offering every form of co-operation.

The Sonnenberg Association exclusively performs non-profit, cultural tasks. As a spiritually and politically independent association, its work is for the purpose of international and intercultural understanding. It is also supported by public and private institutions with subsidies and funding. With just less than 1,200 members in Germany and national member groups in a further 24 countries (focus: EU), the Sonnenberg Association is also an international organisation. The national member groups in the International Sonnenberg Association (ISA) support the goals of the Association by sending guests and participants to conferences in the Harz region or hosting their own events.
South African-German Network Deutschland (SAGE Net) e. V.

South African-German Network Deutschland (SAGE Net)
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Tel.: +49 228 98164–18; Fax: +49 228 98164–64
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In existence since 2004, SAGE Net is a provider co-operation initiative of very different German and South African organisations (associations, educational institutes, authorities, societies, companies, etc.) that campaign for and support a non-profit, sustainable development of the two countries.

SAGE Net aims to organise long-term dialogue-based contacts and exchanges between South Africa and Germany. The synergy effects that occur are effective when people of different organisations work together constructively and they could not be reached in this way by individual organisations.

SAGE Net has a joint vision of stable and flexible partnerships of organisations and individuals within a coordinated network, where intercultural learning, personal growth and professional exchange are thus enabled.

By national and bilateral structures and forms of communication, the network supports programmes in the sectors of education, youth, tourism, social affairs, health, conflict resolution, science and culture.

Many projects are related to youth exchanges or exchanges of professionals who work with young people. SAGE Net is guided by the following principles: the exchange is in both directions and on an equal footing, both sides make their financial and non-financial contribution. An existence of openness to the needs of others and the willingness to learn from each other. This form of exchange is supported by the idea of further developing interdisciplinary, multi-provider and process-oriented working methods for the purpose of continuously learning from each other.

MEMBERS
A list of the member organisations is available on the website at www.sage-net.org.
Stiftung Deutsch-Russischer Jugendaustausch gGmbH

Foundation for German-Russian Youth Exchange

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Tel.: +49 40 8788679–0; Fax: +49 40 8788679–20
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The Foundation for German-Russian Youth Exchange was founded in February 2006 as a public-private partnership. The shareholders of the foundation, which has its office in Hamburg, are the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familien, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend), the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, the Robert Bosch Foundation (Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH) and the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft).

The Foundation was created as part of the implementation of the intergovernmental agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Russian Federation on youth policy co-operation of December 2004 with the aim of expanding and giving new impetus to the co-operation between German and Russian youth and school children. It is intended to develop good relations between the peoples of the two states and to take account of the importance of the young generation in determining the present and future state of German-Russian relations.

The Foundation for German-Russian Youth Exchange carries out the following tasks: it prepares information about exchange opportunities between German and Russian schoolchildren and young people, and it disseminates this information amongst young people, youth associations and organisations, and education establishments. In addition, it encourages the development of exchanges and helps organisations interested in exchanges in setting up initial contacts and in strengthening existing ones.

The Foundation runs a partnering platform, seminars and conferences on German-Russian youth co-operation, including some involving schools and vocational training schools, and it provides support in professional training for youth service specialists and to teachers, including internships and observer visits.

Furthermore, it draws up proposals for the development of new forms of and areas for bi-lateral and multi-lateral youth co-operation and runs PR activities for German-Russian youth policy co-operation.

Another key task of the Foundation for German-Russian Youth Exchange is to provide funding for programmes in the areas of “school exchange and language training”, “extracurricular exchange” and “employee exchange”.

The Foundation of West-East Encounters promotes personal meetings and co-operation between people from Germany and from the states of the former Soviet Union (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). It wants to deepen and strengthen intercultural learning, East-West competence and the engagement in civil society through many smaller projects with immediate relevance to the citizens themselves. Its programmes are based on partnership and reciprocity and characterised by the long-term nature of the relations. Since the Foundation was set established in 1994 it has supported around 3,500 individual activities with a disbursed volume of about € 8 million.

The purpose of the Foundation is realised by supporting projects in the areas of school exchanges and school partnerships, youth exchanges, art, culture, citizens’ encounters and social and humanitarian aid, which help to establish and expand longer-term partnerships and lasting relationships and to strengthen the co-operation of civil society by their bi-lateral and multilateral design involving participants from both East and West. They convey a better understanding of the country and its people, of its history and present situation, of cultures and religions, and sends out a signal about understanding and stability, about learning as partners and tolerance, as Europeans grow closer together. The activities focus on face-to-face meetings between people from the above-mentioned countries, which take place as thematic events or project-related activities.

The Foundation’s funding activities are aimed at voluntary and public providers in the Federal Republic of Germany (e.g. schools, youth groups, church congregations, municipal institutions, twin towns, etc.) that carry out specific projects together either in Germany or abroad with their foreign partners and over a limited period.

The portfolio of projects supported by the Foundation of West-East Encounters comprises initial meetings, thematic and project-oriented encounters, and encounters promoting citizens’ engagement and the creation of networks for the purpose of establishing partnerships with the above-mentioned countries and strengthening citizens’ engagement. The portfolio also includes the “Appreciating your partner country” programme (Sympathieprogramm Partnerland), which encourages participants to get to know and appreciate the Foundation’s partner countries, while the third aspect of the portfolio are special projects (e.g. town twinning conferences), in which both sides – in accordance with the Foundation’s vision – have a special interest.

The Foundation is a member of the Association of German Foundations (Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen).
The two Coordination Centres for German-Czech Youth Exchange – Tandem in Regensburg and Pilsen – were founded in 1997 with the goal of expanding the youth movements and student exchanges between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Czech Republic to intensify the bilateral relations between the two countries. The Coordination Centre in Regensburg is financed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend), as well as the Free States of Bavaria and Saxony. The Coordination Centre is supported by the Bavarian Youth Council (Bayerischer Jugendring). The Coordination Centre in Pilsen is connected to the West Bohemian University (Westböhmische Universität) and is financially supported by the Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic. The Coordination Centres are part of the national ministries responsible for youth affairs, as well as the German-Czech Youth Council (Deutsch Tschechischer Jugendrat) and closely co-operate with them.

The tasks of the Tandem Coordination Centre are counselling and information (mainly for multipliers of youth work, youth leaders, team leaders and teachers), arranging exchange partners and contacts, offering further qualification of multipliers and financial support for youth and expert meetings.

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Coordination Centre in Regensburg grants the “Czech Republic” special funding from the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes). With this funding, German-Czech youth meetings are supported as an element of extracurricular youth work on a range of focal topics. The same goes for expert programmes and job shadowing of youth leaders at recognised child and youth welfare providers in the other country, as well as voluntary vocational internships of trainees, young employees and unemployed young people. A further supporting pillar of Tandem is the programme “From an Early Age – Odmalièka” (Von klein auf – Odmalièka); it promotes German-Czech meetings of children at pre-school age. The Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs (Kultusministerium) is responsible for support in the school sector.

The Coordination Centres arrange suitable exchange partners in the neighbouring country on their joint online contact platform. In addition to seminars for the preparation and methodical and content-based design of German-Czech youth meetings for teachers and experts of extracurricular youth work, it holds various specialist conferences and meetings. On its homepage and in the monthly newsletter “Tandem-Kurier”, Tandem provides information on all news in the field of German-Czech youth exchanges. Tandem provides “Tandem info sheets” and the corresponding downloads on the Internet for many topics (e.g. encouraging language learning, youth accommodation,
the Czech Republic on the Internet, funding opportunities). The Coordination Centre also publishes its own range of publications entitled “Working Materials for German-Czech Youth Exchanges”.
transfer e.V.

transfer

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As a recognised provider of private child and youth welfare, transfer (founded 1982) provides counselling and qualification in the sectors of intercultural meetings, youth and children's trips and youth health. Furthermore, transfer is active as a project agency for nationwide projects. The association actively participates in the organisation of children's and youth trips and intercultural youth meetings and their contents and structures. As a networking agency, transfer serves the whole “market” of youth work with courses and counselling on youth health.

In addition to representing interests on specialist committees and in umbrella associations, transfer pursues four main goals in its work: on the one hand, it deals with the qualification of child and youth trips and international youth meetings according to role models of intercultural understanding, social and ecological responsibility, as well as children's well-being and health, while taking into account current youth cultures. For the second goal, the association strives for a health-oriented qualification of all sectors of youth work and international youth work according to the principles of the “Feeling good” (Gut drauf) concept (exercise, nutrition, relaxation). Thirdly, transfer aims to promote the dialogue and networking of people and organisations who otherwise rarely meet – e.g. of scientists and practitioners or support associations and private providers to break down personal and institutional barriers, impart lasting mutual insights and initiate further coordination and co-operation. The fourth part of transfer is the exchange of experience, the co-operation and the mutual stimulation of practitioners of children’s and youth trips and youth meetings from Eastern and Western Germany.

To attain these goals, transfer supports and accompanies co-operation projects and networking structures in which the association often works together with widely differing partners in order to produce synergy effects from a diversity of perspectives and approaches.
Verband für Interkulturelle Arbeit – VIA e.V.

Association for Intercultural Work

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The Association for Intercultural Work – VIA (formerly: Association of Initiative Groups in Migrant Work / Verband der Initiativgruppen in der Auslanderarbeit) was founded in 1979. It is a non-profit, non-denominational organisation and independent of political parties; its members are Germans and foreigners alike, who are committed to a multi-cultural society and full equality, and who take a stance against xenophobia and racist tendencies.

It sees its work neither as a straightforward welfare activity nor as pure self-organisation of foreigners. Rather, the Association regards itself as the political voice and interest group of its more than 100 regular members (independent groups, associations, and initiatives). Above this, more than 180 individuals are sustaining members of the Association.

VIA principally takes a position on the subjects of migration, multi-cultural society, naturalisation and dual citizenship, political participation, advisory committees for foreigner’s affairs, racism, discrimination on the employment market, and on matters concerning adolescents, students, women and girls of non-German nationality, and issues specific requests for these concerns. VIA’s proposals regarding youth policy are targeted at a multi-cultural education of foreign youths, with the intention of enabling them to maintain their own culture and live in the other.

The Association holds conferences and workshops on current issues and the background of work with and for foreigners and related topics at local, Länder and national level.

MEMBERS
A list of VIA member groups is available through their website at www.via-bund.de/ueber-via/vm.htm.
Verein für Internationale Jugendarbeit e. V.

Association for International Youth Work

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The Association for International Youth Work (vij; formerly: Association of Friends for Young Girls/Verein der Freundinnen junger Mädchen) is the German organisation of the “Union internationale des amies de la jeune fille”. vij is a Protestant women’s association, which is a specialist organisation in the Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland, EKD). It still pursues its original founding ideals to provide protection and support to young women away from home.

The aim of the association is to provide assistance and support to young people who are in work or training either at home or abroad. Overarching topics are therefore intercultural learning, globalisation and human trafficking.

The main focuses of the association in its subsections – 16 au-pair placement offices in Germany, an office in Paris and consulting units in Russia, Ukraine and South Africa – concentrate on advising and placing au pairs, running international clubs, types of social therapeutic living and meeting centres, helping in the integration for foreign women and children and running schoolchildren and sponsoring programmes, consultancy services on migration and consultancy networks combating trafficking in women.

The advice, placement and support service for au-pairs can be accessed on www.au-pair-vij.org.

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VIA – Association for International and Intercultural Exchange

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VIA - Association for International and Intercultural Exchange is a non-profit association. Major objectives of its activities are to create international contacts, to foster the understanding for other cultures and to contribute to enhanced tolerance.

VIA organises stays abroad, which permit the participants to build intensive contacts with people and to gain good insights into the life situation of the country in question. It primarily arranges stays with families, au-pair employment and volunteer services. The Association also has projects for the further education of multipliers and is active in projects promoting intercultural activities. VIA supports information activities on other cultures and is involved in development assistance projects.

The Association is recognized as an organiser of the Alternative Service Abroad by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend). It may place participants in an Other Service Abroad position in the UK, Ireland and France pursuant to § 14 b of the Act on Alternative Civilian Service (ZDG).
YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICES, ORGANISATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AND PEACE POLICY, VOLUNTARY SERVICES AND ALTERNATIVE NON-MILITARY SERVICE

Aktion Süßneichen Friedensdienste e.V.  
*Action Reconciliation Services for Peace*

Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e.V.  
*Action Committee Service for Peace*

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe e.V.  
*Association for Development Co-operation*

Arbeitskreis “Lernen und Helfen in Übersee” e.V.  
*Association “Learning and Helping Overseas”*

Arbeitskreis Internationaler Gemeinschaftsdienste in Deutschland e.V.  
*Association of International Voluntary Services in Germany*

Bund Ostdeutscher Gemeinschaftsdienste  
*Association of East German Voluntary Services*

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V.  
*Federal Association of Volunteer Agencies*

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Internationale Soziale Dienste e.V.  
*Federal Association for International Social Services*

Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr  
*Federal NGO Working Group Voluntary Ecological Year*

Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr  
*Association of Central Federal Voluntary Organisations and the Central Offices for the Voluntary Social Service Year*

Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft – Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen e.V.  
*German Peace Society – United War Resisters*

Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst gGmbH  
*German Development Service*

EIRENE – Internationaler Christlicher Friedensdienst e.V.  
*EIRENE, International Christian Peace Service*

Evangelische Freiwilligendienste für junge Menschen FSJ und DJIA gGmbH  
*Protestant Voluntary Services for Youth and DlJa Ltd.*

Initiative Christen für Europa e.V.  
*Christians for Europe Initiative*

Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e.V.  
*International Meeting in Community Services*

Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste Bundesverein e.V. – Gesellschaft für internationale und politische Bildung  
*International Youth Community Services – Society for International and Political Education*
YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICES, ORGANISATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AND PEACE POLICY, VOLUNTARY SERVICES AND ALTERNATIVE NON-MILITARY SERVICE

Internationaler Bauorden – Deutscher Zweig e. V.  
*International Building Companions – German Branch*

InWEnt – Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH  
*Capacity Building International Germany*

Katholische Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Freiwilligendienste  
*Catholic Federation of International Voluntary Social Service*

Kolping Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste  
*Kolping Youth Community Services*

Nothelfergemeinschaft der Freunde e. V.  
*Emergency Volunteers of the Community of Friends*

Raphaels-Werk. Dienst am Menschen unterwegs e. V.  
*Raphael Centre. A service for people who travel*

Service Civil International – Deutscher Zweig e. V.  
*Service Civil International – German Branch*

Trägerkonferenz der internationalen Jugendgemeinschafts- und Jugendsozialdienste  
*Conference of International Youth Voluntary and Social Service Organisations*

Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger e. V.  
*Union of Young Volunteers*

Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e. V.  
*German War Graves Commission*

Youth Action for Peace Deutschland – Christlicher Friedensdienst e. V.  
*Youth Action for Peace – Christian Peace Movement*

Zentralstelle für Recht und Schutz der Kriegsdienstverweigerer aus Gewissensgründen e. V.  
*Central Office for the Rights and Protection of Conscientious Objectors*
**Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste e.V.**

*Action Reconciliation Services for Peace*

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For Action Reconciliation Services for Peace (ASF), the critical appraisal of National Socialism is the motivation and obligation for concrete activities in the present. Since the peace organisation was established in 1958, it has promoted society’s awareness for the continued impact of our history and has opposed any current forms of exclusion. Through their short, medium and long-term volunteer services with ASF, more than 500 individuals leave their mark for peace, understanding and human rights each year – against anti-semitism, racism and exclusion – for a humane future – and against forgetting the past.

On average, 180 young people are active in long-term volunteer services organised by ASF. They work in various projects in 13 countries for a period of one year or 18 months. Among other things, they take care of Holocaust survivors and former forced labourers, accompany school classes on their visits to memorials, support refugees and asylum seekers, persons with mental illnesses and people with disabilities as well as the homeless, and they build networks against racism. ASF projects are found in Belgium, Germany, France, the UK, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, the USA and Belarus.

Every year, ASF hosts 20 to 25 international summer camps. More than 300 predominantly young people from various countries live and work together for two or three weeks and address the history of National Socialism and current political topics. They maintain memorials and Jewish cemeteries, they help in renovation projects of charitable institutions or work in social projects.

With its education and public relations work, ASF wants to contribute to greater perceptiveness of and sensitivity for the presence of our history and thus to a more equitable future. As a result, the Association works for the compensation of all individuals persecuted by National Socialism and speaks up, when intercultural understanding, Judeo-Christian dialogue, peace policy or the fight against right-wing extremism, racism and anti-semitism are at stake. ASF also addresses the question how the debate on National Socialism has to change and has to be changed in our time of interculturality. ASF publishes material and hosts seminars and conferences on these topics.
Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e. V.

Action Committee Service for Peace

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Action Committee Service for Peace (AGDF) is an umbrella organisation, which was founded in 1968, when 35 ecumenically oriented peace and volunteer service organisations and institutions came together.

AGDF’s mission includes planning, promoting and hosting activities in the service for peace and especially by involving young people. It carries out its activities by coordinating short-term and long-term volunteer services of organisations aiming at peace promotion. AGDF is committed to the recognition and promotion of volunteer services in international youth work, in reconciliation services, in development co-operation by churches and governments as well as international institutions.

In line with raising the awareness of young people for peace policy issues, AGDF pursues its activities by calling for peace weeks and peace decades, by working in the peace movement against armaments, by getting involved in the conciliatory process for justice, peace and by protecting creation and by participating at Church Festivals (Kirchentage). AGDF also offers a wide spectrum of qualification courses for professionals and multipliers in civic conflict management, for example; it supports and organises regional peace work, peace policy actions, medium-term services in Germany and abroad, development services, education activities and encounters.

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Internationaler Diakonischer Jugendeinsatz der
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The Association for Development Co-operation, which was founded in 1959, is the central specialist service for all matters of personal development aid of the Catholic church in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It particularly performs the following tasks: recruitment, selection, preparation, assignment, supervision, further training and re-integration of specialists who work as development assistance workers. The assigned specialists become employees in projects or programmes of domestic, church and state providers, as well as international organisations in the sectors of agriculture, crafts, technology, healthcare, social services, education and peace and human rights work – generally for a term of three years.

The fid – Service and Counselling Organisation for Voluntary International Services in the Association for Development Co-operation (fid – Service- und Beratungsstelle für Freiwillige Internationale Dienste in der AGEH) was founded in 1991 and, on behalf of Justitia et Pax (the German Commission for Justice and Peace), it advises initiatives and organisations that want to offer or establish medium- or long-term voluntary services in other (non-)European countries. AGEH is responsible for the organisation of fid, and provides advice on all matters regarding the general conditions for sending and accompanying volunteers. This concerns e.g. the development or expansion of new voluntary services and their supervision, initial briefings, specialist exchanges of experience of other services, offers for preparation, accompaniment and return work with volunteers, the legal, social, pastoral and development policy aspects of teaching services, meeting and exchange programmes, as well as matters of social security and foreign placement insurance of international services.

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missio@missio-muc.de,
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Arbeitskreis “Lernen und Helfen in Übersee” e.V.

Association “Learning and Helping Overseas”

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Since 1962, the Association “Learning and Helping Overseas” (AKLHÜ) has been the contact and networking office for state-approved development services, youth community and peace services and other organisations dealing with issues of development co-operation.

AKLHÜ advises and supports interested individuals who want to enter into a social commitment abroad. This concerns both professional secondments of experienced professionals through development services or the Senior Expert Service and short-term and longer term services of young people and adults in youth community services and social peace services. In the vacancy database of the Association, which is available at www.entwicklungsdienst.de, various providers present their current deployment opportunities and provide information on the content and the duration of such a co-operation.

AKLHÜ promotes the exchange on professional or factual issues among its members and with other national and international players in HR development co-operation. It also coordinates the joint activities of its affiliates and supports them with its public relation work. Besides the Federal government, AKLHÜ is one of the partners of the German Development Service (Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst).

MEMBERS

ADRA Deutschland e.V.
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AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen e.V.

Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e.V.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe e.V.

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Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e.V.
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info@grenzenlos.org; www.grenzenlos.org

Internationaler Bund (IB) Freier Träger der Jugend-, Sozial- und Bildungsarbeit e.V.

ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit e.V.

IUB – Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.

Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste Bundesverein e.V. – Gesellschaft für internationale und politische Bildung

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Rathausallee 12, D–53757 Sankt Augustin,
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Ring deutscher Pfadfinderverbände
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ses@ses-bonn.de, www.ses-bonn.de

Service Civil International – Deutscher Zweig e.V.
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vorstand@weltweite-initiative.de,
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World University Service – Deutsches Komitee e.V.
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Tel. +49 611 446648, Fax +49 611 446489,
info@wusgermany.de, www.wusgermany.de
Arbeitskreis Internationaler Gemeinschaftsdienste in Deutschland e. V.

**Association of International Voluntary Services in Germany**

Schlosserstr. 28; D–70180 Stuttgart  
Tel.: +49 711 6490062  
E-Mail: aig@ibg-workcamps.org; Internet: www.ibg-workcamps.org

The Association of International Voluntary Services in Germany (AIG) is an amalgamation of organisations from the field of international youth work.

Its objective is to contribute to international understanding by modern youth work and to promote such endeavours. It works without any denominational, party political, racial or national affiliations, and it respects the autonomy of its affiliates in its co-operation and united efforts. AIG supports and promotes its affiliates intellectually and professionally in discharging their duties.

A focus of its activities is to intensify the co-operation in the area of international youth work/youth community services on matters of content and to realise and promote this especially intensive form of youth meetings on the international level.

AIG is affiliated to the Providers’ Conference of International Youth Community and Youth Social Services (Trägerkonferenz der internationalen Jugendgemeinschafts- und Jugendsozialdienste) and is one of the responsible central offices in the sphere of activity funded under the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes).

**MEMBERS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e. V.</th>
<th>Stadtjugendring Weinheim e. V.</th>
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<td>Offene Häuser e.V. (Oh)</td>
<td>Bahnhofstr. 19, D–69469 Weinheim,</td>
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<td>Goetheplatz 98, D–99423 Weimar,</td>
<td>Tel. +49 6201 13406, <a href="mailto:stadttjugendring-Weinheim@t-online.de">stadttjugendring-Weinheim@t-online.de</a>,</td>
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<td>pro international e. V.</td>
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<td>Bahnhofstr. 26A, D–35037 Marburg,</td>
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Bund Ostdeutscher Gemeinschaftsdienste

Association of East German Voluntary Services

c/o Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger
Hans-Otto-Str. 7; D-10407 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 42850603; Fax: +49 30 42850604
E-Mail: office@vjf.de; Mitglieder

The Association of East German Voluntary Services (BOG) was founded in 1992 in the aim of contributing to international understanding by project-oriented youth work, and of promoting activities for an international co-operation of voluntary services.

Through its addiliates, BOG arranges national and international non-profit youth meetings, coordinates the participation in seminars of provider organisations or other activities of an educational nature. Its work is non-denominational and non-partisan, and the Association opposes any form of racist or gender-based discrimination. The Association respects the autonomy of its affiliates and promotes their mutual co-operation.

BOG itself is affiliated to the Conference of International Youth Voluntary and Social Services (Trägerkonferenz der internationalen Jugendgemeinschafts- und Jugendsozialdienste).

MEMBERS

Norddeutsche Jugend im Internationalen Gemeinschaftsdienst e.V.
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nig@campline.de, www.campline.de/fer.htm

Vereinigung Junger Freiwilliger e.V.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V.

Federal Association of Volunteer Agencies

Torstr. 231; D-10115 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 20453366; Fax: +49 30 28094699
E-Mail: bagfa@bagfa.de; Internet: www.bagfa.de

The Federal Association of Volunteer Agencies (bagfa) was founded in 1999 and is a union of currently 290 local and regional volunteer agencies, exchange platforms and centres. The objective of the Association is to promote and support civic commitment by offering inter-regional, inter-provider professional and specific policy-related representation and support. At present, there are twelve Länder working parties in bagfa.

As a nationwide contact and support agency, bagfa advises and supports the volunteer agencies in their establishment and further development phases. For this purpose, it communicates professional and organisational experiences, develops quality standards, organises expert meetings and creates qualification and further education opportunities in the area of volunteer management. bagfa has several working groups: intergenerational volunteer services, commitment of young individuals and co-operations with companies.

bagfa also promotes regional and inter-regional expert networks and the further development of co-operations with associations, foundations, companies and international organisations. An important focus is creating and securing a local infrastructure to promote volunteer commitment and volunteer agencies. In this context, bagfa prepares social policy positions and contributes to the work of expert and political structures.

There are annual nationwide expert conferences, bagfa awards quality certificates and offers the innovation prize for volunteer agencies. Bagfa’s patron is the Federal President.

MEMBERS

290 facilities belong to the bagfa network, 90 of which are affiliated organisations. A list of contract addressees of local and regional volunteer agencies and Länder working parties is available at www.bagfa.de.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Internationale Soziale Dienste e. V.

Federal Association for International Social Services

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In 1968, Catholic associations and organisations established the Federal Association for International Social Services (BISD), whose purpose is to support and promote international social services.

The Association primarily fulfils this objective by coordinating projects and activities of its affiliated organisations while respecting their autonomy. Furthermore, the Federal Association represents the interests of its affiliated organisations. It especially organises joint projects and actions, promotes agreements on joint plans and projects, provides information on the activities of its affiliates, develops new fields of activity, prepares work-related materials and is active in the joint advertising and recruitment of participants for its activities.

The providers of international youth community services offer various programmes and projects. These include services in the social, educational and ecological fields, the development of co-operation services, peace and reconciliation services as well as education on development co-operation issues.

The participants of its programme are young people between 16 and 26 years of age. In the interests of its affiliated organisations, the Federal Association concludes agreements and maintains co-operations with other providers of international social services.

It pursues its objectives in close co-operation with the Association for Development Co-operation (▶ Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe), the diocesan organisations “Misereor” and “Adveniat”, the German Caritas Association (▶ Deutscher Caritasverband), the Sovereign Order of Malta for Humanitarian Aid (Malteser Hilfsdienst) and similar associations.

MEMBERS

► Arbeitsstelle für Jugendseelsorge der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz
► Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend
► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Katholisches Jugendreisen
► CAJ – Christliche ArbeiterInnenjugend
► Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg
► Internationaler Bauorden – Deutscher Zweig e.V.
► Katholische Jüngere Gemeinde
► Katholische Landjugendbewegung Deutschlands e.V.
► Kolping Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste
► Pfadfinderinnenschaft Sankt Georg

569
**Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr**

*Federal NGO Working Group Voluntary Ecological Year*

c/o Hinrich Goos  
FÖJ-Betreuungsstelle beim Jugendpfarramt der Nordelbischen Kirche  
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Internet: www.foej.de  

The Federal NGO Working Group Voluntary Ecological Year is the national representative agency of the joint interests of providers of the Voluntary Ecological Year (FÖJ). It was founded in Göttingen on 31 May 2001. The Working Group aims to combine the experience and potential of the wide range of national providers and represent these internally and externally. Of the nationally approved 50 FÖJ providers, 46 are members of the Working Group, and the rest have a guest status.

The goals and tasks of the Working Group include the national representation of the joint interests of FÖJ providers (where the Working Group regards itself as a partner of the FÖJ participants, providers and the responsible ministries) as well as the organised exchange of experiences and information, the efficient co-operation of FÖJ providers and the strengthening of the FÖJ’s significance in society through national public relations work. Furthermore, the Working Group regards it as its mission – with the participation of the FÖJ participants as well as everyone else involved – to ensure quality assurance, particularly in educational work, at assignment locations and in seminars.
Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr

Association of Central Federal Voluntary Organisations and the Central Offices for the Voluntary Social Service Year

c/o Martin Schulze  
Evangelische Freiwilligendienste für junge Menschen  
Otto-Brenner-Str. 9; D–30155 Hannover  
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E-Mail: info@pro-fsj.de  
Internet: www.pro-fsj.de

Founded in 1989, the “Association of Central Federal Voluntary Organisations and the Central Offices for the Voluntary Social Service Year” represents the joint interests of the organisations and central offices.

Its goal is to organise a social service year for young people. This is based on the Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Social Year (Gesetz zur Förderung eines freiwilligen sozialen Jahres) in its respectively valid version and the Guidelines of the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Richtlinien des Kinder- und Jugendplanes des Bundes).

The Association is the advisory specialist committee for all matters regarding the Voluntary Social Year. Its tasks are the co-ordination of the work and further development of the Voluntary Social Year, the collection and exchange of information on matters of youth and social work insofar as they concern the Voluntary Social Year, consultancy on content-related matters and the promotion of political matters of the Voluntary Social Year as well as the production of joint statements.

MEMBERS

Arbeiterwohlfahrt – Bundesverband e. V.
Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend
Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung e.V.
Der Paritätische Gesamtverband e.V.
Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund e.V. (DOSB)

Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.
Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.
Evangelische Freiwilligendienste für junge Menschen FSJ und DjiA gGmbH
Internationaler Bund (IB) Freier Träger der Jugend-, Sozial- und Bildungsarbeit e.V.
Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft – Vereinigte KriegsdienstgegnerInnen e.V.

German Peace Society – United War Resisters

Kasseler Str. 1 A; D–60486 Frankfurt
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E-Mail: office@dfg-vk.de; Internet: www.dfg-vk.de

The German Peace Society – United War Resisters (DFG-VK) considers itself as a pacifist and antimilitarist organisation, which was originally founded in 1892 and was then known as German Peace Society (Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft). It is a grassroots organisation, whose objectives are contained in the basic declaration of “War Resisters International”: “War is a crime against humanity. I am therefore resolved not to support war in any form and to help in eliminating the causes of war.”

DFG-VK advocates disarmament, conversion of armaments production, a ban on armaments exports and civil forms of conflict resolution as well as the right to conscientious objection. At the end of this development, it envisages the abolition of all armed forces.

DFG-VK offers individual on-site counselling on conscientious objection and assistance to (future) conscripts. It also issues nationwide information brochures on (total) conscientious objection and avoidance of military service as well as other materials.

LÄNDER OFFICES

DFG-VK has Länder offices in 11 Federal states. Their addresses are available at its Federal Office.
Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst gGmbH

German Development Service

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The German Development Service (DED) is the personnel development service of the Federal Republic of Germany. It was established in 1963. Since its establishment, more than 15,000 development workers have improved the living conditions of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In 2006, a little less than 1,000 development workers were posted to approximately 45 countries.

DED makes experienced and socially-minded professionals available to developing countries, supports indigenous organisations and self-help initiatives by offering them professional support, funding smaller programmes and developing indigenous experts. In its junior expert development programme, DED offers qualified young professionals up to the age of 28 an opportunity to spend a year in a DED partner country and to gain experience in development policy, professional, personal and intercultural development. It places German development workers in the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, increases the German public’s understanding for the situation of people in developing countries and introduces topics in the public discussion, which concern the common interests and problems of our One World.

DED does not initiate its own projects; instead it reacts to requests of partner organisations in its partner countries. The projects supported by DED in these countries are categorised according to sector: technical and crafts sector, agriculture and forestry as well as the protection of resources, health, general education, construction and settlement issues, community and small business development, management and administration.

DED has offices in its partner countries, and mostly in their capitals, which are managed by a country director. He/she represents the organisation vis-à-vis its country partners and manages the national programme.

DED’s legal structure is that of a non-profit limited company (gGmbH). The company partners are the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development (Bundesminister für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung), and the “Learning and Helping Overseas” Association (Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee). DED is funded from the federal budget.
EIRENE – Internationaler Christlicher Friedensdienst e.V.

EIRENE – International Christian Peace Service

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EIRENE is an ecumenical international peace and development service. The organisation was founded in 1957 and is recognized as the provider of the Other Service Abroad (Anderer Dienst im Ausland) development service and as a provider of the Voluntary Social Service Year (Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr).

EIRENE’s activities are divided into a programme for professionals and a volunteer service. The programme for professionals supports sustainable development projects in Africa and Latin America. Human rights initiatives, self-help groups and rural development projects are at the core of its activities. Development co-operation professionals are deployed in these projects. In the context of its Non-Military Peace Service (Ziviler Friedensdienst, ZFD), EIRENE promotes the non-violent management of conflicts and supports preventive activities for non-violent conflict resolution.

In its volunteer programme, approximately 70 young people per year go abroad to work in social or ecological projects or in reconciliation activities for a period of at least 12 months. This volunteer service may also be chosen as an alternative to the compulsory German non-military service. In the context of the Senior Citizens’ Peace Service (Friedensdienst der Älteren), this programme is also open to individuals, who want to make a meaningful contribution and make their skills available after having finished their time with their families or their professional career.

EIRENE volunteers are active in Belgium, Bosnia, France, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Canada, Romania and in the USA. Furthermore, there is a limited number of volunteer positions in Latin America and Africa (Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger and Tschad). The areas and the locations of the volunteers’ deployment vary greatly and include reconciliation work in Northern Ireland, work with the homeless in Texas or projects with street children in Romania, and the locations range from big cities to living and working in a community on a remote farm.
Evangelische Freiwilligendienste für junge Menschen FSJ und DJIA gGmbH

Protestant Voluntary Services for Youth and DJIA Ltd.

Otto-Brenner-Str. 9; D–30159 Hannover
Tel.: 0511 4500083-30; E-Mail: info@ev-freiwilligendienste.de
Internet: www.ev-freiwilligendienste.de

Protestant Voluntary Services for Youth and DJIA Ltd. is a limited liability company of the Diakonie Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche Deutschlands) and the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland).

Two voluntary services are managed from the central office: the Voluntary Social Service Year (Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr) and the Diakonie Social Service Year Abroad (Diakonisches Jahr im Ausland). One of the office’s main activities is to advise all those who participate or are interested in voluntary services.

As a nationwide provider of the Voluntary Social Service Year, Protestant Voluntary Services is the general representative for the group of Protestant providers of the Voluntary Social Service Year in Germany and abroad at the national level and vis-à-vis the church, the Diakonie Social Welfare Agency, politicians and the public. As the provider of this national programme, the association is the unit managing the Diakonie Social Service Year Abroad from the initial information for interested young people to the seminar for returnees. It places young people with its partner organisations working in church-related or ecumenical services in other European countries.

Young men who are recognized conscientious objectors may perform their alternative non-military service by opting for a Voluntary Social Service Year position in Germany or aboard (pursuant to § 14c of the Act on Alternative Civilian Service, ZDG).
Initiative Christen für Europa e.V.

Christians for Europe Initiative

Wachwitzer Höhenweg 10, D-01328 Dresden
Tel.: +49 351 2150020; Fax: +49 351 2150028
E-Mail: ice.dresden@freiwilligendienst.de; Internet: www.freiwilligendienst.de

ICE, the Christians for Europe Initiative, is a private non-profit organisation. Its legal predecessor was established in 1965, however, in 1991 the organisation assumed its current name. ICE is a recognized organisation pursuant to the German Child and Youth Welfare Act to assist young volunteers in doing community work abroad where they can work under the rules of the Voluntary Social Service Year (Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr, FSJ). ICE is also entitled to provide services to young men who decide not to do compulsory military service but to serve in non-military projects pursuant to ZDG § 14b+c (Act on Alternative Civilian Service). ICE cooperates with EVD (European Voluntary Service) as a sending organisation, coordination office and hosting organisation.

The project “Voluntary Social Service – Building Bridges in Europe” (Freiwillig Sozial Dienen – Brücken bauen in Europa) was started in 1988 to encourage young people to do voluntary social service and build bridges in Europe and was expanded in 1991 to include Central and Eastern Europe. The project supports young people interested in volunteering in social and youth centres to bring together people and nations and giving particular significance to voluntarism, service, learning and taking responsibility. So far, about 2,000 volunteers have participated in the project. The hosting organisations are located in 16 countries of Western, Central and Eastern Europe and include workshops and homes for disabled and socially disadvantaged children and young people, institutions providing ambulatory social services, residential homes for old and disabled persons, centres for the homeless, ambulatory services for senior citizens and persons suffering from a disease, projects providing assistance to former prisoners of concentration camps, social and ecological youth centres and educational institutions to enable multipliers and partnerships between schools, social institutions and German associations.

The team of ICE consists of full-time and voluntary skilled staff working together with former volunteers. ICE is a member of the Catholic Federation of Medium-Term International Voluntary Social Service (Katholische Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mittelfristige Internationale Soziale Freiwilligendienste).

MEMBERS

Presently ICE has 15 institutional members (youth and social centres in Germany, France, Italy, Poland, Russia and Hungary). Our head office will provide contact details upon request.
Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e.V.

International Meeting in Community Services

Schlosserstr. 28, D–70180 Stuttgart
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E-Mail: info@ibg-workcamps.org; Internet: www.ibg-workcamps.org

The International Meeting in Community Services (IBG), which was founded in 1965, aims to make a contribution to international understanding and the eradication of prejudices. It focuses on the organisation of work camps. These have an exclusively non-profit character and are held in close partnership with local project partners. IBG arranges the work camps of partner organisations in more than 40 countries. The association organises its own international work camps in Germany.

The work camps aim to highlight differences and shared factors so that the participants can reflect on these in view of the background of their own cultural identity. In this way, prejudices and reservations towards other cultures are broken down and the interest for people in other countries is strengthened, fears, problems and hopes are understood.

IBG is a member of the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations, the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) and the Working Group of International Community Services in Germany (Arbeitskreis Internationaler Gemeinschaftsdienste in Deutschland, AIG).
IJGD, the International Youth Community Services – Society for International and Political Education, was set up in 1948 with the aim of heightening young people’s awareness of social conditions so that they can make informed and responsible decisions in a democratic society, take appropriate action and make a contribution to international understanding as the basis of a global peace order.

The organisation builds on encounters between young people from different origins and enabling them to get to know a different environment, the experience of contributions to shape a community and active help for other people. The Society organises international community service projects, work camps, study sessions and similar education-oriented encounters for young people, acts as a mediator to permit young people to participate in such events in Germany and abroad, and also promotes comparable endeavours in its co-operation with other organisations.

In some Länder, IJGD offers (sometimes also extended) voluntary work projects involving social services, ecology and the preservation of historical monuments (as part of the German Voluntary Social Service Year (Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr, FSJ) both in Germany and abroad.

OTHER OFFICES

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Internationaler Bauorden – Deutscher Zweig e.V.

International Building Companions – German Branch

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IBO, the International Building Companions organisation, was established in 1953. It organises international youth meetings and longer-term voluntary service projects and supports social and non-profit facilities in Europe with building camps to help them cover their building and renovation needs.

So far 350,000 young people have participated in IBO projects. The International Building Companions and their projects seek to serve the interests of national, ethnic and religious minorities. There are projects for families, intergenerational building projects, camps for senior citizens and special events, where disabled people are invited to make contributions. Since 2005, IBO has awarded the Joseph Schmitt Prize for theses presented on the subject of international youth work and voluntary service in Europe.

To be an active Building Companion means readiness to take responsibility, develop initiative and discover one’s own talents, to meet people and experience different environments, give help for self-help and encourage people to move away from the receiving end of problems and instead become active better their circumstances.

IBO receives funding from resources budgeted in the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes, KJP), EU funding and contributions from foundations. The friends of IBO, mostly former project participants, pay for the lion’s share of the costs and expenses incurred by the organisation.
InWEnt – Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH

Capacity Building International Germany

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InWEnt, Capacity Building International Germany, is a globally active undertaking with a focus on HR development, continuous education and dialogue. The capacity building programmes are geared to skilled and management staff in politics, administration, business and the civil society. 60% of InWEnt’s programmes are commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, BMZ). But the organisation also works for other ministries and international organisations and co-operates with German companies in public-private partnership projects combining economic, social and ecological objectives.

InWEnt’s programmes for people from developing, transformation and industrialized countries are specially tailored to suit the needs of the respective partners. The organisation offers vocational and practice-oriented continuous education, a platform for dialogue and e-learning courses. There is an alumni network so that participants can stay in touch with InWEnt and with each other after the end of a course or a project. InWEnt offers young people from Germany an exchange programme and the facilitation of scholarships to give them the opportunity to gather international professional experience.

InWEnt is headquartered in Bonn and has 14 regional offices ensuring its nationwide representation. Our branch offices in New Delhi, Hanoi, Cairo, Kiev, Lima, Managua, Manila, Moscow, Beijing, Pretoria, São Paulo and Tanzania are mostly managed together with representatives of other German organisations offering development co-operation.
Katholische Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Freiwilligendienste

Catholic Federation of International Voluntary Social Service

c/o Jugendhaus Düsseldorf e.V.
Carl-Mosterts-Platz 1; D-40477 Düsseldorf
E-Mail: info@freiwilliges-jahr.de; Internet: www.freiwilliges-jahr.de

The Catholic Federation of International Voluntary Social Service, which has existed since 1997, is the union of all providers of various voluntary services in Germany and abroad, which are supported by Catholic associations. It has 42 affiliates; these include the central German Catholic providers of the Voluntary Social Service Year (FSJ), the German Caritas Society (Deutscher Caritasverband, DCV), the Federation of German Catholic Youth (Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend, BDKJ) and the Association for Development Co-operation (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe, AGEH).

Every year, the members of the Federation arrange placements for almost 3,700 young people for the Voluntary Social Service Year in Germany, and about 1,000 young people find a voluntary assignment abroad (long-term voluntary services abroad, Voluntary Social Service Year in the European Voluntary Service). The members also offer multi-generational voluntary services and short-term voluntary services, as well as – since 1 January 2008 – the “World Voluntary Service” for young people, this initiative is part of “weltwärts”, the new voluntary service of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend). The Catholic Federation cooperates with AGEH and the Misereor Relief Agency (Hilfswerk Misereor).

MEMBERS
A list of the members can be found at www.freiwilliges-jahr.de.
Kolping Youth Community Services

Kolping Youth Community Services (Kolping JGD) are a non-profit department of the Kolping Society in Germany. The Kolping Society is a Catholic social service association with approximately 450,000 members worldwide, who organised in 6,000 Kolping families in 60 countries.

As a voluntary youth service provider, Kolping JGD has offered youth meetings and work camps in Germany and abroad since 1953. It aims to create awareness for social and global problems among adolescents and young adults and to encourage them to assume social responsibility in their societies.

Youths over the age of 16 may participate in work camps in Europe and young adults over 18 may go to work camps overseas. In small groups of approximately 10 persons and accompanied by a group leader, they live and work together with the people at the foreign site on a project with a social and/or crafts dimension, in agriculture or environmental protection. Encounters and intercultural learning play a key role in this context.

Since 2007, Kolping JGD has placed volunteers abroad who want to work and live in a non-profit project for a period of six to 12 months (medium-term voluntary services (Mittelfristige Freiwilligendienste, MFD). The fields of activity are highly diverse, but they are mainly associated with social, ecological or crafts projects and leave sufficient room for special skills and interests.

Kolping JGD’s partner countries are: Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Germany, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Great Britain, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Cuba, Malta, Morocco, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua, Northern Ireland, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Ruanda, Russia, South Africa, Tansania, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Venezuela, Viet Nam.
Nothelfergemeinschaft der Freunde e. V.

Emergency Volunteers of the Community of Friends

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E-Mail: info@nothelfer.org; Internet: www.nothelfergemeinschaft.de

The Emergency Volunteers of the Community of Friends (NdF) was founded in 1949 and has no ties to political, ideological, religious, race-related or national ideals.

It works on the spiritual basis of a Christian ethos and subscribes to the principle of non-violence. Apart from a number of help services at national level and tasks of youth and social work, NdF has also conducted shared international reconstruction projects, disaster management projects, and social services in Germany and abroad. NdF’s aims to alleviate social emergencies through its activities, and through the intellectual examination of volunteer's objectives and of the circumstances and requirements on site. A volunteer service should also make efforts for a better understanding and reconciliation as a contribution to peace. NdF works on the basis that lasting peace is not possible without a clear attitude towards it or without social justice.

Committed men and women from the age of 18 take part in voluntary service programmes, which normally last between four weeks and a year. Avoiding third-party agencies, well-known project organisations offer the medium and long term programmes in non-European countries directly to volunteers who are seeking to cooperate with dedicated people in an open-minded atmosphere.
Raphaels-Werk. Dienst am Menschen unterwegs e. V.

Raphael Centre. A service for people who travel

Adenauerallee 41, D-20097 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 248442-0; E-Mail: kontakt@raphaels-werk.de
Internet: www.raphaels-werk.de

The Raphael Centre is assigned the task by the German Catholic bishops to offer counseling to all those who want to move permanently or temporarily abroad: emigrants, international workers, refugees that are moving to a third country or voluntarily returning to their home, as well as binational couples. Germans that are living abroad and want to return to Germany are also offered assistance by the Raphael Centre.

In more than 20 counselling centres, as well as online and telephone counselling, on the basis of the Emigrant Protection Act (Auswandererschutzgesetz), the non-profit association provides people seeking advice in Germany with information on the respective destination country and discusses their motives, opportunities and risks. The aim is to make the decision of each individual as balanced and responsible as possible. The counseling always focuses on the person as a whole. It is open for everyone, independent of their age, gender, descent, language, origin, religion or political views. It provides open results and is performed on a factual basis.

As a specialist association of the Caritas Social Welfare Society (Deutscher Caritasverband), the Raphael Centre is a co-operation partner for Caritas Societies in Germany and many other countries, as well as for German-speaking Catholic foreign parishes and other church groups. Foreign embassies and consulates, ministries, authorities and national and international organisations are regular contacts.

The charity work in the counselling centres of the Raphael Centre consists of supporting those seeking advice with discussions and information and enabling them to make a well-founded, independent decision. This includes the clarification of vague ideas, the questioning of motives and gaining a realistic assessment of the plan. For the counsellors of the Raphael Centre, the focus is placed on the personal situation of the person seeking advice. They use their expertise to counsel and support those who travel in their everyday life situation.
Service Civil International – Deutscher Zweig e.V.

Service Civil International – German Branch

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Service Civil International (SCI) is one of the oldest peace and volunteer organisations (it was founded in 1920) with 35 national branches in Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australia. It works with partners in approximately 90 countries around the world. SCI has consultative status at the Council of Europe and is a member of the world-wide Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Services (CCIVS) under the auspices of UNESCO.

The German branch of SCI was founded in 1946. It aims at promoting non-violent conflict resolution, international understanding, co-operation and solidarity through international voluntary work.

In order to achieve this goal, SCI mainly organises short-term international work camps in many countries, where young people can work together as unpaid volunteers on a meaningful project for their host society. In addition, SCI places people in longer voluntary projects of three to twelve months and conducts events for the participants before and after their projects, and for training its staff.

The international work camps are carried out as an element of local projects in the following areas: nature and environmental protection, social work, reconciliation, work with children, young people and senior citizens, migrants and refugees, peace and human rights.
The Conference of International Youth Voluntary and Social Service Organisations was founded in 1968 as an association of specialist providers for these services in the aim of creating a forum for their joint activities and a coordinating body to represent their common concerns.

In Germany, international youth voluntary and social service organisations have been active since 1920. At present, they are an element of out-of-school education and youth work, adult education and the international volunteer movement. They contribute to civic education and education for democratic decision-making, they promote the education for peace being more than the absence of war, and they support education for international co-operation. They have developed their own types of activities (such as work camps, seminars for the training and further training of group leaders, weekend courses and events as well as medium-term and long-term services) and, in line with their traditions and their focus of activity, they have developed specific principles and objectives for their activities.

The Conference’s special concern is the joint realisation of general teaching objectives for international voluntary youth services. The chair of the organisation is rotated annually to another affiliated organisation.
The Union of Young Volunteers (VJF) was founded in March 1990 as a volunteer service organisation in the new states of the Federal Republic of Germany. Guided by the ideals of solidarity and humanism and following the example of the international volunteer movement, its members and supporters are active in international youth meetings of various types and work for a peaceful and tolerant coexistence.

VJF organises and hosts international work camps, seminars and actions, which comply with the ideals of volunteer services worldwide. It wants to contribute towards solving social problems, protecting the environment, safeguarding our cultural heritage, promoting solidarity with the Third World and fighting against any kind of social, racial, sexual, political and religious discrimination.
Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V.

German War Graves Commission

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The German War Graves Commission (known as “VDK” in German) was founded in 1919 and is a recognised youth work and welfare organisation. Of the world’s institutions dedicated to preserving war graves, it is the only one with its own in-school and out-of-school youth work activities and its own youth conference centres in Germany and abroad. Its youth work mainly takes the form of work camps, educational work (particularly at schools and institutions of higher education institutions), international and national seminars on the topic of peace education and human rights education, contributions to education on political history and intercultural matters and dialogue with other youth groups.

Every year, more than 17,000 young people from various countries meet up at the Commission’s work camps and youth conference centres in Germany and abroad to get to know each other, spend free time together, work on war graves and memorial sites and reflect on German and European history as part of a programme entitled “Reconciliation above the Graves – Working for Peace”. These experiences help them realise the necessity for peaceful behaviour with the result that they actively tackle the risks posed by extremist attitudes.

VDK’s work is based on international agreements and national laws and its work abroad is performed on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany. Through its international in-school and out-of-school youth work, it makes an important contribution to the preservation and development of democratic cultures of commemoration and remembrance in an ever closer Europe.

The VDK’s four youth conference centres in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Germany form a further cornerstone of its youth work. Meetings with the people of the host countries are intended to get the young people to reflect on their own history and that of their neighbouring country. Exchanges between European school classes and youth groups are supported and designed to help improve the participants’ language skills.

At its annual youth leader training courses, the Commission trains future youth leaders (awarding them a “Youth Leader Certificate”/Jugendleiterkarte) upon successful completion of the course). At the annual work-camp leader meeting and further training courses, it offers a knowledge-sharing and training platform for those who already work as youth leaders.

The Commission’s youth work is financed by various institutions, including the federal government (Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth), the German-Polish Youth Office (Deutsch-Polnisches Jugendwerk), the Franco-German Youth Office (Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk) and the German-Russian Youth Exchange Foundation (Stiftung Deutsch-Russischer Jugendaustausch), which allocate funds for specific projects. In a resolution adopted on 27 April 2006, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (Ständige Konferenz der Kultusminister der Bundesländer) again recommended schools...
to work with VDK. VDK is a member of the Federal Forum for Child and Youth Travel (BundesForum Kinder- und Jugendreisen).

YOUTH DIVISIONS
The German War Graves Commission maintains youth divisions in all the Federal Länder. Contact addresses are available at www.volksbund.de.
Youth Action for Peace Deutschland – Christlicher Friedensdienst e.V.

Youth Action for Peace – Christian Peace Movement

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yap-cfd is the German branch of an international peace movement founded in the years after World War I as a Christian community for reconciliation in Europe. Formerly the “Christian Peace Service” (Christlicher Friedensdienst), it was renamed “Youth Action for Peace Deutschland (Christlicher Friedensdienst, yap-cfd)” in 1994 to indicate that it is open to all denominations.

The inter-denominational organisation is an association of critical Christians who regard it as their task to promote peace, justice and the preservation of Creation. yap-cfd sees itself challenged to take up the cause of poor, oppressed and exploited people and nations for the purpose of reconciliation. To this end the organisation wants to promote political and social engagement. In the Federal Republic of Germany, it focuses primarily on practical peace work, alongside ecology projects, solidarity projects and work with unemployed young people.

As a recognised provider of voluntary youth services, yap-cfd organises its own work camps in Germany and places young people in work camps of partner organisations in over 50 countries around the world. Its work is also focused on placing and supporting medium and long-term volunteers in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. The volunteers are placed through the programmes of the European Voluntary Service (EVS) and “weltwärts”, the German development-oriented volunteer service, the co-operation with the Franco-German Youth Office (Deutsch-Französisches Jugendwerk) and its own “International Volunteer Services” (Internationale Freiwilligendienste) programme.

yap-cfd works with other groups in the peace, solidarity, and ecology movement and is a member of Action Committee Service for Peace (Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden), Youth Action for Peace international and CCIVS.
Zentralstelle für Recht und Schutz der Kriegsdienstverweigerer
aus Gewissensgründen e.V.

Central Office for the Rights and Protection of Conscientious Objectors

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The Central Office for the Rights and Protection of Conscientious Objectors, founded in 1957, advocates the unconditional respect for the individual's freedom of belief and conscience as stipulated in Article 4 of the German Basic Law (Grundgesetz). It promotes information about these basic rights and calls for tolerance in every aspect of culture as well as the peaceful co-operation with other people and peoples. Within the scope of its tasks, the Central Office places a special emphasis on the realisation and protection of the basic right to object to serving in the armed forces for conscientious reasons, the protection of freedom of conscience in work situations, the unbiased and broad-minded application of law and the development of relevant existing law. It informs the public about the legal provisions of conscientious objection, and advises or informs men and women who intend to object to military service. Beyond this, the Central office also provides legal advisory services in cases of fundamental significance and is committed to the protection of conscientious objectors in public, irrespective of their nationality. Other tasks include consultancy for conscientious objectors, drafted persons, and their relatives in legal, social, and financial matters as well as advocating the international acknowledgement of the basic right to object to armed services by cooperating with like-minded organisations outside Germany.

The Central Office provides consultancy services to the political parties in the German Bundestag in legislative projects, holds negotiations with the authorities in individual cases where drafted persons feel unjustly treated, and organises conferences on subjects of the discourse on compulsory military service, official duty, and conscientious objection.

MEMBERS

- Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e.V.
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland e.V.
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Service Civil International – Deutscher Zweig e. V.

Sozialistische Jugend Deutschlands – Die Falken
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Since the beginning of the 1970s, youth information centres have developed as part of the information services provided in Germany’s youth service system at the local level. The role of these centres is primarily to provide general information and advice. As internet use became more widespread in this field from the mid-1990s onwards, this information was supplemented by on-line and internet-based information services specifically related to children and young people.

Created in the aim of helping young people solve personal difficulties and problems, youth information centres provide services for adolescents and young adults plus certain other target groups and offer advice on a wide range of problem and conflict situations. They either give information and advice directly through their staff in the areas of drugs, alcohol, school, health, culture, leisure and travel or, in the case of problems at home, provide details of other, specialist advice centres or information sources on the internet.

Almost all these local and some of the Land-wide youth information centres have different operators and organisational structures, work independently, in accordance with their own methods, and are not part of an umbrella organisation. However, information and advice/counselling are also provided in many other areas of youth work – at youth offices, youth centres, associations, in self-help groups, youth publications, youth research and numerous interest groups. Since information and counselling are always offered by the organisational unit with the relevant knowledge, the information systems are divided into specialist areas, e.g. job placements, career guidance, higher education, assistance for gifted youth, counselling within the school system, child guidance, drugs counselling, youth offices, youth information centres, etc.

Since responsibility for providing information and advice depends on the specialist expertise of the bodies concerned, information provision reflects the Federal and decentralised structure of the Federal Republic of Germany. Most of the questions and topics on which young people require information lie within the remit of the Länder and municipalities and a few are within the remit of the Federal government. Special information providers are thus found throughout Germany at the local, municipal, regional and Länder levels. The www.jugendinfonetz.de website lists providers of youth information in Germany. The youth offices can also provide assistance if the information sought cannot be found.

For some time now, Germany has had a portal for child and youth service professionals, which serves as an information, co-operation and communication platform covering all areas of child and youth services. It is funded jointly by the Federal government and the Länder and managed by the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ) in co-operation with IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland). The information it presents ranges from a directory of relevant institutions at the national, federal-state and local level to documents and materials related to child and youth services, information on upcoming events and descriptions of projects, from the latest news in the world of child and youth services right through to a large job advertisements section. Forums and
other interactive modules enable professionals to share knowledge and discuss issues with fellow professionals from other organisations, associations and occupations.

YOUTH INFORMATION AT THE FEDERAL-STATE LEVEL

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Jugendnetz Baden-Württemberg
c/o Jugendstiftung Baden-Württemberg
Schloßstr. 23, D–74372 Sersheim,
Tel. +49 7042 8317–0, Fax +49 7042 8317–40,
service@jugendnetz.de, www.jugendnetz.de

The www.jugendnetz.de website is a joint project by the major state-wide youth work organisations in Baden-Württemberg. All of the content thus concerns services, activities and opportunities offered by associations, clubs and other bodies involved in youth work. Jugendnetz is financed by the Land of Baden-Württemberg and the European Social Fund. Its operation and coordination are the responsibility of the Servicestelle Jugend – a service provided by the Baden-Württemberg Youth Foundation (Jugendstiftung Baden-Württemberg). The site is geared to young people and young workers. There are also “Young Pages” (Junge Seiten), especially for young people, covering topics such as job news, dream jobs, health, accommodation, finances, insurance, authorities, travel, advice, e-cards and the “Qualipass” skills documentation pack (www.jungeseiten.de).

BAVARIA

Bavaria does not have its own youth server. Details of youth work and youth organisations in Bavaria can be found on the website of the Bavarian Youth Council (Bayrischer Jugendring, standing conference of youth organisations) at www.bjr-online.de.

BERLIN

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Tel. +49 30 2539972, Fax +49 30 2539977,
spinne@sozkult.de, www.spinnenwerk.de

Berlin’s “Spinnenwerk” (webworks) youth server (a project by the Verband für sozial-kulturelle Arbeit, Landesgruppe Berlin e. V. (Berlin section of the Association for Socio-Cultural Work) is intended as an internet platform for and about young people in Berlin. It forms part of the overall strategy pursued by the jugendnetz-berlin.de programme for education using media resources and the Berlin Education Server (http://bebis.cidsnet.de). The project works together with ProMix (an information service run by Democratic Youth Foundation (Stiftung Demokratische Jugend) and Infonet/Infomail (run by the Land Association for Cultural Youth Education (Landesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung)). The website contains uncommented, alphabetical lists of links related to leisure, groups, international activities, youth work, youth information, art and culture, girls, media and activities.
**Jugendnetz-berlin.de**
c/o Stiftung Demokratische Jugend,
Grüninger Str. 54, D-10254 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 2945285, Fax +49 30 2945281,
go@jugendnetz-berlin.de, www.jugendnetz-berlin.de

The jugendnetz-berlin.de internet portal is the information, communication, presentation and programme-organisation platform of the youth initiative of the same name and Berlin’s youth workers. The Democratic Youth Foundation (Stiftung Demokratische Jugend) is responsible for the jugendnetz-berlin.de website, which aims to help children and young people in youth organisations in Berlin make use of the internet, to promote joint projects between youth workers and schools, support regional and nationwide projects and initiatives and to interlink them in networks.

**BRANDENBURG**

**Jugendserver Brandenburg**
c/o LAG Multimedia Brandenburg e.V., Herrn Mathias Specht,
Breite Str. 7A, D-14467 Potsdam,
Tel. +49 331 9512260, Fax +49 331 9512262,
info@lag-multimedia.de, www.jugendinfo.com

The Brandenburg youth server, www.jugendinfo.com, a project by the Brandenburg Multimedia Working Group (Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Multimedia Brandenburg), includes the ProMix-Online Brandenburg database (www.promix-online.de) – the “yellow pages” of youth work in Brandenburg. The database lists 2,569 youth organisations and projects plus 1,129 youth work institutions. Other topics for young people presented on jugendinfo.com are: leisure, life, learning, work, society, media, travel, international activities and competitions.

**BREMEN**

**Landesjugendserver Bremen**
c/o ServiceBureau Jugendinformation,
Kalkstr. 6, 28195 Bremen,
Tel. 0421 330089-10/11/15, Fax 0421 330089-22,
serviceb@jugendinfo.de, www.jugendinfo.de

Bremen’s youth server (http://jugendinfo.de) is operated by ServiceBureau Internationale Jugendkontakte, part of the LidiceHaus gGmbH youth residential training centre, and funded by the Senate Department for Employment, Women, Health, Youth and Social Affairs. The virtual Bremen youth-information system provides a communication forum for young people on topics of relevance to them in the spheres of everyday life, education and politic. It is also directed at multipliers in the field of youth work and other adults who work closely or have a close relationship with young people.
HAMBURG

Landesjugendserver Hamburg
c/o Behörde für Schule, Jugend und Berufsbildung, Amt für Jugend Hamburg –
Jugendinformationszentrum,
Steinstr. 7, D–20095 Hamburg,
Tel. +49 40 428542819, Fax +49 40 335890,
jugendserver@jiz.de, http://jiz.de/server

Hamburg’s youth server, www.jugendserver-hamburg.de, was set up as a project by
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in cooperation with the JIZ youth information
centre. It is managed by JIZ employees and published by Hamburg’s Education and Sport
Authority (Behörde für Bildung und Sport). The website contains information for young
people on such topics as competitions, training & “voluntary social service years”, inter-
national activities, education and school, leisure, problems, travel and accommodation.

MECKLENBURG-WESTERNVORPOMERANIA

Landesjugendserver Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
c/o Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern,
Goethestr. 73, D–19053 Schwerin,
Tel. +49 385 76076–0, Fax +49 385 76076–20,
ljr@inmv.de, http://jugend.inmv.de

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania’s youth server is run by the Youth Council of Mecklen-
burg-Western Pomerania (Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). The actual
“youth portal” can be accessed via the “Jugend in M-V” menu item (the direct link is
www.jugend.inmv.de/jugend/index.shtml) and offers information on youth-related topics
such as events, the internet and multimedia, participation, law, school and career, leisure
and travel.

LOWER SAXONY

Landesjugendserver Niedersachsen
c/o Landesjugendring Niedersachsen e.V.,
Zeißstr. 13, D–30519 Hannover,
Tel. +49 511 519451–0, Fax +49 511 519451–20,
office@jugendserver-niedersachsen.de, www.jugendserver-niedersachsen.de

Lower Saxony’s youth server, www.jugendserver-niedersachsen.de, is a project by the
youth organisations in the Youth Council of Lower Saxony (Landesjugendring
Niedersachsen). It is managed by the Youth Council of Lower Saxony (Landesjugendring
Niedersachsen) and funded by the Land. The website combines web-based information
with e-learning elements. Its content ranges from topics related to young people’s lives
and information on youth policy right through to materials and legislation for multi-
pliers in the field of youth work. There is also an address database and an event database,
a wiki (in the form of a cooperation model) and secure team areas.
RHINELAND-PALATINATE

Landesjugendserver Rheinland Pfalz
c/o Landesfilmdienst Rheinland-Pfalz,
Peterstr. 3, D-55116 Mainz,
Tel. +49 6131 28788-0, Fax +49 6131 28788-25,
jugend.rlp@lokal-global.de, www.jugend.rlp.de

Rhineland-Palatinate has an “information platform on the topic of young people in Rhineland-Palatinate”, funded by the Land Ministry of Education, Women’s Affairs and Youth (Ministerium für Bildung, Frauen und Jugend) and managed by the Rhineland-Palatinate Film Service (Landesfilmdienst Rheinland-Pfalz). The platform is mainly intended for multipliers in the field of youth work.

SAARLAND

Landesjugendserver Saar
c/o Landesjugendring Saar,
Eifelstr. 35, D-66113 Saarbrücken,
Tel. +49 681 7534750, Fax +49 681 7534755,
info@jugendserver-saar.de, www.jugendserver-saar.de

The Saarland youth server is a project by the Regional Youth Council of the Saarland (Landesjugendring Saar) and provides young people with information on school and career, partnerships, leisure, media and events. The “Profi wissen” (Expert know how) section also contains information for multipliers in the field of youth work.

SAXONY-ANHALT

Landesjugendserver Sachsen-Anhalt
c/o Landesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.,
Liebigstr. 5, 39104 Magdeburg,
Tel. 0391 24451-60, Fax 0391 24451-70,
jissa@jugend-lsa.de, www.jugendserver.info

Saxony-Anhalt’s youth server is managed and maintained by Youth Information Service Saxony-Anhalt (JugendInfoService Sachsen-Anhalt, JISSA), a youth information project by the Saxony-Anhalt Association for Cultural Youth Education (Landesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung Sachsen-Anhalt). On the JISSA website, www.jugend-lsa.de, users can access the Jugendportal (“youth portal”; www.jugend-lsa.de/ger/jugendportal), the Fachkräfteportal (“professionals’ portal”; www.jugend-lsa.de/ger/fachkaefeportal) and a “What’s on?” magazine.
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

Landesjugendserver Schleswig-Holstein
c/o Landesjugendring Schleswig-Holstein e.V.,
Holtenauer Str. 99, D-24105 Kiel,
Tel. +49 431 800–9840, Fax +49 431 800–9841,
info@ljrsh.de, www.jugendserver-sh.de

The Schleswig-Holstein youth server is managed by the Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein (► Landesjugendring Schleswig-Holstein). It contains up-to-date news and information, chiefly directed at professionals, on topics such as youth work, gender, school, international activities, media and events.

THURINGIA

Landesjugendserver Thüringen
c/o Landesjugendring Thüringen e.V.,
Johannesstr. 19, D-99084 Erfurt,
Tel. +49 361 576780, Fax +49 361 5767815,
post@landesjugendring.thueringen.de, www.yougend.com

Thuringia’s youth server, www.yougend.com, managed by the Youth Council of Thuringia (► Landesjugendring Thüringen), is primarily geared to young people. It provides commented links to information on youth-related competitions, projects, voluntary service, school, study, international activities, etc.
Since April 2003, Youth Press Germany – Federal Association of Young Media-makers – has been the amalgamated Association of the Länder associations of the German Youth Press and the Federal Association of the German Youth (Landesverbände der Deutschen Jugendpresse, Bundesverband Jugendpresse). As an umbrella organisation of regional associations, it coordinates the activities and creates inter-regional transparency. Youth Press Germany helps young journalists throughout Germany to get a youth press pass, it has contacts on all issues involving the training and education in the media professions, produces books and magazines and organises seminars, workshops and press tours. With its annual National Youth Media Days (www.jugendmedientage.de) and the YouthMedia-Convention (www.jugendpresse.de/kongress), it organises two highlights for the youth press, where it facilitates meetings of young media makers and professional journalists.

The philosophy of Youth Press Germany and its Länder associations clearly determines that young people themselves decide on the programme. Secondary school students, young people doing their civil service or their military service or university students determine which events will be organised, which brochures shall be produced and which contests will be publicly announced. All participants work as volunteers and spend their leisure time with these activities.

Youth Press Germany is a non-profit organisation and receives funding for its activities from the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung) and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend). Youth Press Germany is a non-partisan organisation. It co-operates with foundations and education centres of any political orientation and defends the rights of young journalists.

MEMBERS

Verband junger Medienmacher Baden-Württemberg e.V.
Servicestelle Jugendmedien, Schloßstr. 23, D-74372 Sersheim, Tel. +49 7042 815555, Fax +49 7042 815556, buero@vjm-bw.de, www.vjm-bw.de

Freie Jugendpresse Baden-Württemberg e.V.
Landesgeschäftsstelle, Freiburgerstr. 32, D-79276 Reute, Tel. +49 7000 7777877, Fax +49 7000 7777877, info@fjpbw.de, www.fjpbw.de

Junge Presse Bayern e.V.
Kulturzentrum K4, Königstr. 93, D-90402 Nürnberg, Tel. +49 911 2369635, Fax +49 911 2369635, jpbayern@link-m.de, www.jpbayern.de

Junge Journalisten Bayern e.V.
Franz Hirner, Ludwig-Thoma-Str. 10, D-82041 Deisenhofen, Tel. +49 177 6131553, jjb@jugendpresse.de, www.jjb.de

Junge Presse Berlin e.V.
Landesgeschäftsstelle, Perleberger Str. 1, D-10559 Berlin, Tel. +49 30 3962108, Fax +49 30 3962736, jpb@jpberlin.de, www.junge-presse-berlin.de

Bildungs- und Förderverein Deutscher Jugendmedien Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.
Landesgeschäftsstelle, Torstr. 43, D-10119 Berlin, Tel. +49 30 74749276, Fax +49 30 74749271, vorstand@bdvj-online.de, www.bvdj-online.de

Jugendpresseverband Brandenburg e.V.
Landesgeschäftsstelle, Lindenstr. 28/29, D-14467 Potsdam, Tel. +49 331 2803446, Fax +49 331 2803446, buero@jpvb.de, www.jpvb.de
Pressenetzwerk für Jugendthemen e. V.

Press Network for Youth Themes

Beethovenstr. 38 A; D-53115 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 217786; Fax: +49 228 213984
E-Mail: buero@pressenetzwerk.de; Internet: www.pressenetzwerk.de

In 1966, editors of youth magazines, broadcasters of youth shows in public broadcasting stations, press officers of youth organisations, young journalists and freelance staff of expert and youth publications formed the Press Network for Youth Themes (formerly: Youth Press Club). As a non-partisan and non-denominational specialist association, it promotes youth press and youth journalism, contacts among young publishers, their further education in seminars and study tours; through its international contacts, it offers its affiliates an opportunity to participate in information and research tours abroad and makes a journalistic contribution to political youth education on the national and international level. In its international activities, PNJ defends understanding, international co-operation and a consistent peace policy. Against this background, contacts to international media and youth organisations have a high priority and are pursued especially by inviting and taking care of foreign journalists, publishers, PR staff and youth service professionals.
Schulen ans Netz e. V.

Schools in the Net
Bonner Talweg 100, D–53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 91048–0; Fax: +49 228 91048–267
E-Mail: buero@schulen-ans-netz.de; Internet: www.schulen-ans-netz.de

Schools in the Net is a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF) and Deutsche Telekom AG. It is a non-profit organisation with a mandate to promote education for all sectors of society, and forms a competence centre for the use of electronic media in education. The activities of Schools in the Net focus on exploiting the potentials of computers and the Internet for contemporary teaching and learning, on ensuring a suitable mixture of “old” and new media, and on spreading proven good practice. It also includes new tasks focussing on “life-long learning”.

The organisation develops teaching units for the main focal areas of elementary schooling, secondary stages I and II, and vocational training and makes them available to teachers at “Teachers online” (www.lehrer-online.de), and it also provides information on media competence and legal aspects of the schools’ use of media. The “Exile Club” (www.exil-club.de) is a platform for learning and working, using action-based and project-based teaching.

Schools in the Net is the national support service (NSS) for the “eTwinning” programme (www.etwinning.de) and offers support to those looking for schools for twinning arrangements. The project “Open Learning Spaces – Room for More” (www.freie-lernorte.de) gives support and training to a total of 60 all-day schools of various types across the country. “Discover Nature-Sciences-Sciences” (www.naturwissenschaften-entdecken.de) aims to make learning about mathematics/sciences/technology more attractive by applying modern teaching methods and materials. A competence network is currently being set up in which teachers, educationalists and researchers can work together in the long term. Networking is also the issue for “Shape up” (www.shapeupeurope.net), which aims to make children in 26 European countries aware of their own eating and exercise habits.

Schools in the Net provides teachers with several work platforms and homepage generators for different school stages and purposes. The learning and working platform “lo-net²” (www.lo-net2.de) offers all schools and other educational establishments in Germany a wide range of opportunities for exchange between teachers and learners. The homepage generator “Primolo” (www.primolo.de) enables elementary school students to generate Internet pages easily. The reading project “Leselilli” (www.leselilli.de) promotes reading skills using new media in elementary schools. IT works (www.schulen-ans-netz.de/itworks) assists schools and their supporting organisations in the use of appropriate IT-system solutions, i.e. those that are tailored to the schools’ needs.

Furthermore, Schools in the Net also provides materials and tools for young people to use outside of the school setting. “LIFT” (the German acronym for “learning, integrating, promoting and training”, www.lift-web.de) provides Web-based learning materials for school children with a migration background from the age of 12 (“Hauptschule” secondary school students). LizzyNet (www.lizynet.de) is a communication and learning platform for girls aged 12 and over.

Another important topic for the organisation is pre-school education. The “BIBER” (a German acronym for “education, advice and upbringing”) project develops training
courses on the subject of media education for teachers in day-care centres for pre-school children and in elementary schools (www.bildung-beratung-erziehung.de).

MEMBERS

AVM Computersysteme Vertriebs GmbH
Alte-Moabit 95, D–10559 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 39976–0, Fax +49 30 39976–299,
infoavm.de, www.avm.de

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, Referat 325
Tel. +49 1888 57–0, Fax +49 1888 57–82841,
www.bmbf.de

Deutsche Telekom AG
Friedrich Ebert Allee 140, D–53113 Bonn,
www.telekom.de

▶ Deutscher Landkreistag
▶ Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund
▶ Deutscher Städtetag

Ministerium für Bildung und Frauen des Landes Schleswig-Holstein
Brunswiker Str. 16–22, D–24105 Kiel,
Tel. +49 431 988–0, pressestelle@mbf.landsh.de,
www.mbf.schleswig-holstein.de

Ministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur des Landes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Werderstr. 124, D–19055 Schwerin,
Tel. +49 385 588–0, Fax +49 385 588–7082,
poststelle@kultus-mv.de, www.kultus-mv.de

Ministerium für Schule und Weiterbildung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen
Völklinger Str. 49, D–40221 Düsseldorf,
Tel. +49 211 5867–40, Fax +49 211 5867–3220,
poststelle@msw.nrw.de,
www.schulministerium.nrw.de

Novell GmbH
Monschauer Str. 12, D–40549 Düsseldorf,
Tel. +49 211 5631–0, Fax +49 211 5631–250,
www.novell.de

Oracle Deutschland GmbH
Riesstr. 25, D–80992 München,
Tel. +49 89 1430–0, Fax +49 89 1430–1150,
info_de@oracle.com, www.oracle.com

SPONSORING MEMBERS

▶ Internet-ABC e.V.
▶ Didacta Verband e.V.

Didacta Verband e.V.
Rheinstr. 94, D–64295 Darmstadt,
Tel. +49 6151 319141, Fax +49 6151 319344,
info@didacta-verband.de,
www.didacta-verband.de
9.1 NATIONAL UMBRELLA ORGANISATIONS OF VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

Arbeiterwohlfahrt – Bundesverband e. V.  606
Workers’ Welfare – Federal Association

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege e. V.  607
Federal Association of Non-statutory Welfare

Der Paritätische Gesamtverband e. V.  608
The Paritätische Gesamtverband

Deutscher Caritasverband e. V.  611
German Caritas Society

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e. V.  612
German Red Cross Society

Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e. V.  613
Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany

Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland e. V.  614
Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany

9.2 SOCIAL SERVICES/SOCIAL SERVICE ASSOCIATIONS

Die Heilsarmee in Deutschland – Nationales Hauptquartier  615
The Salvation Army in Germany – National Headquarters

SKM – Katholischer Verband für soziale Dienste in Deutschland e. V.  616
SKM – Catholic Association for Social Services in Germany

Sozialdienst katholischer Frauen – Zentrale e. V.  617
Catholic Women’s Social Service – Central Office

Volkssolidarität Bundesverband e. V.  618
People’s Solidarity Association
The Workers’ Welfare Federal Association (AWO) was founded in 1919 by Marie Juchacz, and is a politically independent, non-religious central organisation of voluntary welfare work. The Workers’ Welfare Association advocates greater freedom, solidarity and justice in a democratic society, and takes a stance on questions of social and youth policy. The Association’s activities span the whole spectrum of social work, from prevention to support in emergency situations and (medical) rehabilitation. The Association has created a large number of institutions, centres and social services and tested new forms and methods of social work. Special significance is attached to working with adolescents, to youth unemployment, and to the many different tasks of youth welfare. It was possible to increase the number of children’s groups and youth groups, as well as the youth welfare activities, when the Workers’ Welfare Youth Service was founded in 1978. AWO’s services for children and adolescents include education aid and conflict resolution support, nursery schools and child day-care centres, centres in emergency shelters or troubled areas, homes for children and adolescents, assisted living facilities, youth welfare centres, recreational holidays for children and adolescents, social work in schools, general and occupational youth counselling, out-of-school education schemes for young adults, and international youth encounters. AWO relies on more than 480,000 employees across Germany, 100,000 of which are volunteers and about 145,000 full-time employees. The Association runs several advanced training centres for social and healthcare professions.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege e.V.

Federal Association of Non-statutory Welfare

Oranienburger Str. 13–14, D–10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 24089–0; Fax: +49 30 24089–134
E-Mail: info@bag-wohlfahrt.de; Internet: www.bagfw.de

The national umbrella organisations of voluntary social welfare services have co-operated in a working group since the end of the Second World War and are affiliated to the Federal Association of Non-statutory Welfare (BAGFW).

BAGFW is active in a consultative and coordinating role on all issues of voluntary social welfare services and especially with respect to newly emerging aspects of social welfare and youth services and against the background of European developments. It is involved in legislation and lobbying with the relevant political agencies and decision-makers and co-operates on key social welfare issues with the Federation, the Länder, local authorities and other bodies of public self-government. Its other duties include its participation in specialist organisations and initiatives, insofar as they are related to the field of activities of voluntary social welfare providers, and the exchange with the Association of Non-statutory Welfare in the Länder. Other fields of BAGFW’s activities include fostering and strengthening the general public’s social responsibility as well as representing its affiliates and presenting their positions to the public.

MEMBERS

- Arbeiterwohlfahrt – Bundesverband e.V.
- Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.
- Der Paritätische Gesamtverband e.V.
- Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.
- Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e.V.
- Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland e.V.
The Paritätische Gesamtverband

Oranienburger Str. 13–14; D–10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 24636–0; Fax: +49 30 24636–110
E-Mail: info@paritaet.org; Internet: www.der-paritaetische.de

The Paritätische Gesamtverband was established in 1924 and is the youngest of the six umbrella organisations in the area of voluntary welfare services. It is the umbrella organisation of independent organisations, institutions and groups that perform welfare work for others or in the shape of self-help. Based on the concept of parity, it represents the legal, social and economic interests of its member organisations and assists them in achieving their objectives. Through its own institutions, it helps maintain and facilitate co-operation between welfare organisations and institutions, as well as in the establishment of such organisations and institutions.

The mission of The Paritätische Gesamtverband is to bring together voluntary welfare organisations with the aim of performing competent and timely welfare work for the benefit of society and individuals whilst refraining from revoking or restricting the independence of its members. The Association is non-denominational and not linked to any political party. Since it is an association with members, its general meeting is its highest decision-making body. The Association’s tasks include the promotion of the professional and methodological foundations for social welfare activities, employee training, initiation and development of civic involvement in social welfare activities, measures to ensure the continuation of voluntary work, scientific research for welfare practice, publicity work, provision of information to member organisations and international activities. Its services for members include specialist and legal advice, representation in dealings with parliaments, authorities and other independent associations and organisation and granting of financial aid to members.

The Paritätische Gesamtverband and its affiliates run the following institutions and perform the following activities in the field of youth welfare: homes and communal living facilities with socio-educational services for young people, Voluntary Social Service Year, holidays for children, youth community services, counselling for young people, child guidance, drug counselling, kindergartens and crèches, day and full-time care, playgrounds, city farms for young people, youth community organisations for young resettlers, country school hostels and youth hostels.

The main training centre for full-time and voluntary employees from the member institutions is Equality House (Haus der Parität) at the Association’s headquarters. The Association has a total of 150 national and over 9,500 regional independent affiliated organisations, which run roughly 16,000 institutions of all types. 280,000 full-time and part-time employees, as well as approximately 1.1 million volunteers work, in these institutions.

MEMBERS

The Paritätische Gesamtverband is represented throughout the Federal Republic of Germany by its 16 Länder associations. The contact addresses can be found on its website.
NATIONAL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN THE YOUTH WELFARE AREA

Albert-Schweitzer-Verband der Familienwerke und Kinderdörfer
Am Festungsgarten 1, D–10117 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 206 49–117,
verband@albert-schweitzer.de,
www.albert-schweitzer.de

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland – Bundesleitung – e.V.
Sülzburgerstr. 140, D–50937 Köln,
Tel. +49 221 47605–0,
asb-bv@asb-online.de, www.asb-online.de

Bund der Jugendfamilien und Aktivspielplätze e.V.
Bund diabetischer Kinder und Jugendlicher e.V.
Hahnmühler Str. 46, D–67659 Kaiserslautern,
Tel. +49 631 76488,
diabetesk@aol.com,
www.bund-diabetischer-kinder.de

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Clubs Behindertener und ihrer Freunde e.V.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Kinderschutz-Zentren e.V.
BundesElternVereinigung für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie e.V.
Argentinische Allee 25, D–14167 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 801085–18,
info@bev-evde, www.bev-evde.de

Bundesverband für Körper- und Mehrfachbehinderte e.V.
Bремерфштр. 5–7, D–40239 Düsseldorf,
Tel. +49 211 60404–0,
info@bvkf.de, http://bvkf.de

Bundesverband Legasthenie und Dyskalkei e.V.
Postfach 1107, D–30011 Hannover,
Tel. +49 4193 965602,
info@bvl-legasthesie.de,
www.bvl-legasthesie.de

Bundesverband Sozialarbeit e.V.
Bundesverband Sozialtherapie und Soziale Arbeit e.V.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozialpädiatrie und Jugendmedizin e.V.
ddsjg@dkp.de

Deutsche Lebens-Rettungs-Gesellschaft e.V.
im Niederrhein 2, D–51452 Bad Neuenrath,
Tel. 49 5723 955–0,
Fax 49 5723 955–999,
kommunikation@bgst.dlr.de

Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Bundesverband e.V.
Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk, Hauptverband für Jugendwanderer und Jugendherbergen e.V.
Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk e.V.
Deutscher Guttempler Orden e.V.
Adenauerallee 45, D–22097 Hamburg,
Tel. +49 40 245880,
info@guttempler.de, www.guttempler.de

Deutscher Weihachtsverband für Gehör- und Sprachgeschädigte e.V.
Quinckestr. 72, D–69120 Heidelberg,
Tel. +49 6221 421266,
bgw.hd@t-online.de

Deutsches Studentenwerk e.V.
Mombijouplatz 11, D–10178 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 297727–0,
dsw@studentenwerke.de,
www.studentenwerke.de

Fachverband Drogen und Rauschmittel e.V.
Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.
Heinrich-Hoffmann-Str. 3,
60528 Frankfurt am Main,
Tel. +49 69 6706–252,
frauenhaus@paritaet.org,
www.frauenhauskoordinierung.de
Hilfswerk der Deutschen Unitarier e.V.
Wartenau 13, D–22089 Hamburg,
www.hilfswerk-evde.de

Internationale Gesellschaft für erzieherische Hilfen – Sektion Deutschland der Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE) e.V.
Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste Bundesverein e.V. – Gesellschaft für internationale und politische Bildung
Internationale Vereinigung der Waldorfschulen e.V.
Le Quartier Hornbach 15b,
67433 Neustadt an der Weinstraße,
Tel. +49 6321 959686,
info@iwwdeutschland.de,
www.waldorfschulen.org
Kneipp-Jugend Deutschland
Adolf-Scholz-Allee 6–8, D–86825 Bad Wörishofen,
Tel. +49 8247 3002–180,
Fax 49 8247 3002–199,
jugend@kneippbund.de, www.kneippbund.de

LERNEN FÖRDERN – Bundesverband zur Förderung von Menschen mit Lernbeeinträchtigungen e.V.

PFAD Bundesverband für Pflege- und Adoptivfamilien e.V.
pro familia – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Familienplanung, Sexualpädagogik und Sexualberatung e.V.
SOS-Kinderdorf e.V.

Sozialwerk des Demokratischen Frauenbundes e.V.
Hagenstr. 57–60, D–10365 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 577994–0,
sozialwerkdfb@aol.com,
http://frauen-dfs.de/sozialwerk.html

terre des hommes Deutschland e.V. – Hilfe für Kinder in Not

Verband alleinerziehender Mütter und Väter – Bundesverband e.V.
Hasenheide 70, D–10967 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 695978–6,
kontakt@vamv-bundesverband.de,
www.vamv.de

Verband binationaler Familien und Partnerschaften, ifaf e.V.
Bundesgeschäftsstelle,
Ludolfusstr. 2–4, D–60487 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 7137560,
info@verband-binationaler.de,
www.verband-binationaler.de

Verband der Sozialwerke der Christengemeinschaft e.V.
Mittelweg 13, D–20148 Hamburg,
Tel. +49 40 433027–0,
gvverband@t-online.de,
www.christgemeinschaft.org

Verband Deutscher Schullandheime e.V.
Mendelssohnstr. 86, D–22761 Hamburg,
Tel. +49 40 8901541,
Fax +49 40 898639,
verband@schullandheim.de,
www.schullandheim.de

Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, Sozialtherapie und Soziale Arbeit e.V.
Schloßstr. 9, D–61209 Ehrenzell-Bingenheim,
Tel. +49 6035 81190,
info@verband-anthro.de,
www.verband-anthro.de
9.1 NATIONAL UMBRELLA ORGANISATIONS OF VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, SOCIAL SERVICES/SOCIAL SERVICE ASSOCIATIONS

-Verband für Interkulturelle Arbeit – VIA e.V.
-Verband für sozial-kulturelle Arbeit e.V.
Tucholskystr. 11, D-10117 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 28096103,
berlin@sozkult.de, www.vska.de
NATIONAL UMBRELLA ORGANISATIONS OF VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.

German Caritas Society

Karlstr. 40, D–79104 Freiburg
Tel.: +49 761 200–0; Fax: +49 761 200–572
E-Mail: info@caritas.de; Internet: www.caritas.de

The German Caritas Society (DCV) was founded in 1897. It is the institutional union and representation of the Catholic Caritas in Germany and is recognised by the German bishops.

As one of the six umbrella organisations of voluntary welfare work, it devotes its activities to social and charitable welfare services. DCV is split into diocese Caritas societies, as well as local, county and Land Caritas societies. Its affiliates include 17 recognised charitable specialist associations. Of the almost 25,000 institutions and services of the Caritas, just less than 12,000 work in the field of child and youth services. It runs around 600 in-patient youth welfare institutions with about 29,000 places, approximately 9,600 day-care centres for children with more than 648,000 places and 936 institutions offering open welfare services for children and young people. In its open youth welfare institutions, children, young people and parents receive counselling and assistance. The Society is also in charge of 90 institutions for training and further training in various sectors of youth and social work.

MEMBERS (IN THE FIELD OF CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES)

- Bundesverband katholischer Einrichtungen und Dienste der Erziehungshilfen e.V.
- Bundesverband Katholischer Vorsorge- und Rehabilitationseinrichtungen für Kinder und Jugendliche e.V.
- Caritas Behindertenhilfe und Psychiatrie e.V.
- Caritas-Konferenzen Deutschlands e.V. – Verband freiwillig sozial engagierter, ehrenamtlich tätiger Frauen und Männer D–79104 Freiburg,
- Caritas-Familien-Werk e.V.
In der Aue 1, D–42929 Wermelskirchen,
Tel. +49 2193 5060–0,
info@fftw.de, www.familien-ferien-werk.de
- Gemeinschaft der Vinzenz-Konferenzen Deutschlands e.V.
Blumenstr. 20, D–50670 Köln,
Tel. +49 221 313131,
vinzenz@skmev.de,
www.vinzenz-gemeinschaft.caritas.de
- IN VIA Katholischer Verband für Mädchen- und Frauensozialarbeit – Deutschland e.V.
Katholische Jugendfürsorge – Landesverband Bayern e.V.
Schaezlerstr. 34, D–86152 Augsburg,
Tel. +49 821 3100–0, Fax +49 821 3100–178,
info@kjf-bayern.de, www.kjf-augsburg.de
- Katholischer Arbeitskreis für Familien-Erholung e.V.
Kolpingplatz 5–11, D–50667 Köln,
Tel. +49 221 20701127,
info@kafe.de, www.kafe.de
- Katholischer Krankenhausverband Deutschlands e.V.
Karlstr. 40, D–79104 Freiburg,
Tel. +49 761 200–352,
kkv@caritas.de, www.kkv.de
- Kreuzzug e.V.
- Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V.
Kalker Hauptstr. 22–24, D–51103 Köln,
Tel. +49 221 9822–01,
malteser@malteser.de, www.malteser.de
- Raphaelswerk. Dienst am Menschen unterwegs e.V.
- SKM – Katholischer Verband für soziale Dienste in Deutschland e.V.
- Sozialdienst katholischer Frauen – Zentrale e.V.
- Verband Katholischer Tageseinrichtungen für Kinder (KTK) – Bundesverband e.V.
Verband katholischer Altenhilfe in Deutschland e.V.
Karlstr. 40, D–79104 Freiburg,
Tel. +49 761 200–459,
vkad@caritas.de, www.verband-katholische-altenhilfe.de
Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e. V.

**German Red Cross Society**

Carstennstr. 58; D-12205 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 30 85404-0; Fax: +49 30 85404-450  
E-Mail: drk@drk.de; Internet: www.drk.de

The German Red Cross Society (DRK) is is both a national relief organisation and an umbrella welfare organisation, and it works according to the following principles, which were announced at the 20th International Red Cross Conference in 1965: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntarism, unity, universality.

According to its mission, it assists people solely in line with their level of need and neediness and irrespective of their nationality, race, religion, social position or political affiliations. In its relief activities, it applies – whenever possible – the principle of help for self-help.

DRK is active in all fields of child and youth services. This includes facilities for youth and family counselling, programmes for open youth work and youth social work (youth social work in schools as well as vocational integration), educational institutions and services, daycare centres for children, family education and early education programmes and finally opportunities for cultural education and for international encounters of young people. DRK is also involved in the training, continuous education and further education of professionals.

DRK has a Federal structure: the decision-making bodies of the National Society are the Federal Assembly, the Presidium and the Presidential Council. The Federal Assembly is composed of the representatives of the 19 Länder associations, who are themselves representatives of 500 independent county associations with a total of 4,800 local associations. Other members are five delegates of the Association of DRK Nurses and the DRK President. In total, DRK has approximately 4 million supporting members and more than 400,000 volunteers. DRK also employs 91,000 staff.

The German Red Cross Youth (Deutsches Jugendrotkreuz) with a little less than 80,000 members is the independent youth organisation of the German Red Cross Society.

**LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS**

The German Red Cross Society is represented nationwide with its 19 Länder associations and the Association of DRK Nurses. Contact details are available at www.drk.de.
Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany

Staffelfangerstr. 76; D-70184 Stuttgart
Tel.: +49 711 2159-0; Fax: +49 711 2159-288
E-Mail: diakonie@diakonie.de; Internet: www.diakonie.de

The Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany became the successor organisation of the Central Committee for the Home Mission (Central-Ausschuss für die Innere Mission) and Relief Service of the Protestant Church (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirche) in 1957. As a renowned head organisation of voluntary social welfare work in Germany, the Social Welfare Agency promotes the work of its affiliate organisations, associations and facilities. It promotes the co-operation between the Social Welfare Agencies and associations of regional churches and those of the free churches, and supports the joint planning of projects whose significance exceeds the scope of an social welfare agency of a single church structure. A special emphasis is placed on the fields of assistance for young people and families, for sick, disabled, or elderly people, for people at risk, or for socially disadvantaged people and groups, as well as on training and education for the employees.

Depending on the requirements of changing social structures, the Social Welfare Agencies’ youth welfare work focuses on the education of children and adolescents in homes, on rehabilitation and recreational schemes for children, on education in nurseries, or assistance in adoption and child placement proceedings. Other areas of youth-welfare related work are the alternative non-military service, which has become an important factor in the different fields of the Agencies' work in terms of staffing, and the possibility to spend a year as a voluntary worker for the Agency, as well as welfare work for families, disabled people, addicted persons and persons at risk.

The members of the Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany are: the 24 Social Welfare Agencies of the Länder churches, the Social Welfare Agencies of nine free churches and about 100 associations that have specialised in various fields of social work. This makes the Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany the representative of about 26,000 independent facilities with about 402,000 employees. In late 1999, there were over 9,500 youth welfare facilities (homes and daycare facilities, excluding facilities for disabled persons), with about 573,000 places and more than 72,000 employees. Its highest body is the Diakonie Social Welfare Conference (Diakonische Konferenz), which elects the Diakonie Social Welfare Council (Diakonischer Rat), the supervisory body in the head office.

MEMBERS
You will find contact details for the members of the Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany at www.diakonie.de (menu item "Die Diakonie" < "Organisation").
Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland e.V.

Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany

Hebelstr. 6, D–60318 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 9443710; Fax: +49 69 494817
E-Mail: zentrale@zwst.org; Internet: www.zwst.org

The Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany (ZWST) is one of the six organisations of voluntary social welfare in Germany and is a member of the Federal Association of Non-statutory Welfare (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der freien Wohlfahrtspflege). As a top-level organisation for Jewish welfare services in Germany, it represents the Jewish associations at Land and municipal level and the Jewish Women’s Association (Jüdischer Frauenbund).

ZWST’s mission is to ensure an effective total coverage by an organisation of voluntary community-based Jewish welfare services in Germany, and represents Jewish social welfare interests in the legislative process and at administrative level. In co-operation with the Jewish associations at Land and local community level, it operates as their umbrella organisation promoting the necessary social facilities. Its tasks also include taking an academic/technical approach to problems of welfare services in general, and the promotion of training in the social sector. Furthermore, ZWST wants to encourage private initiatives and voluntary work in the areas of Jewish welfare services.

The social affairs department of ZWST supports the Jewish communities in social matters by providing practical on-site advice, by holding further education seminars, and a targeted development of volunteers. These activities benefit first and foremost small and recently founded communities. In addition, the social affairs department organises recreational trips for senior citizens and excursions for groups. The work of the ZWST youth department focuses principally on training young people to become “madrichim” (Hebrew for “youth leaders”), organising holiday camps (called “machanot” in Hebrew) and congresses, youth meetings, regional youth clubs and family seminars. Furthermore, it offers further education events for education professionals.

On behalf of ZWST, the Teacher Education Centre (Pädagogisches Zentrum) acts as central collecting point for information materials, activities and programmes concerning Jewish educational work in Germany, and also publishes compilations of material for youth centres, communities and schools. In addition, ZWST informs its members about ongoing projects and events through its newsletter “ZWST informs” (ZWST informiert) and also publishes a guideline in German and Russian for Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

In 1999, ZWST initiated the pilot project “Shnat Sherut” (Hebrew for “year of service”), in which young people from Israel can do a Voluntary Social Service Year (Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr) in a Jewish community in Germany.

Since the wave of immigration from the CIS states began in 1990, ZWST has concentrated its activities on the integration of the Jewish migrants, who now make up the majority of community members.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS/COMMUNITIES/WOMEN’S ASSOCIATIONS

As the umbrella organisation for Jewish social welfare, ZWST represents 17 Jewish Länder associations from all over Germany, 6 independent Jewish communities and the Jewish Women’s Association.
The Salvation Army in Germany – National Headquarters

Salierring 23-27, D-50677 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 20819-0; Fax: +49 221 20819-51
E-Mail: pm@heilsarmee.de; Internet: www.heilsarmee.de

The Salvation Army was founded in 1865. It regards itself as an international Christian community and a spiritual force, whose mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. As it is “impossible to preach on a hungry stomach and with cold feet”, the Salvation Army has a wide range of social activities. The Salvation Army targets its activities primarily to people with special social difficulties such as the homeless, alcoholics, drug addicts, socially disadvantaged families, offenders, youth at risk and individuals in AIDS counselling schemes. Its local congregations (the Corps) all have a youth section for young people up to 30 years of age. The Salvation Army’s mission of encouraging young people in their commitment to Christ is combined with a wide range of youth services aiming at the development of the individual’s personality. In the Federal Republic of Germany, the Salvation Army has 46 Corps (congregations) and 42 social welfare facilities. These include youth clubs, social service centres, social therapy facilities, counselling centres and youth cafes, recreational activities, seminars and training courses as well as international exchanges.
SKM – Katholischer Verband für soziale Dienste in Deutschland e.V.

SKM – Catholic Association for Social Services in Germany

Blumenstr. 20, D-50670 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 913928-6; Fax: +49 221 913928-88
E-Mail: skm@skmev.de; Internet: www.skmev.de

The SKM – Catholic Association for Social Services in Germany was founded in 1912 as the Catholic Men’s Welfare Club (Katholischer Männer-Fürsorge-Verein) following a suggestion by Agnes Neuhaus. From 1964 to 1991 it was called the Catholic Men’s Social Service (Sozialdienst Katholischer Männer). It is a recognized national Catholic welfare organisation within the German Caritas Association (Deutscher Caritasverband). With its professional and volunteer staff, SKM wants to assist people in trouble to find help and assistance, to motivate and enable individuals for social and welfare services in church and society and to improve the social conditions for people in need of assistance.

Its duties include in particular: educational youth services, provision and organisation of legal guardianships, advertising, counselling and further education for volunteer guardians, services for delinquents, services for the homeless, counselling and assistance for heavily indebted individuals and families, participation in organisational structures of the Catholic church, public authorities and society as well as associations and organisations. SKM acts as a partner for other voluntary service providers and public bodies and facilities social, family, youth and health care services, and it co-operates with the competent authorities for legal guardianship, courts and penal institutions. Suggestions and information to its local associations and their members are published in its monthly newsletter “KuNo – Kurz Notiert” (News in brief).

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS/GROUPS
Contact details of local associations or groups of SKM – Catholic Association for Social Service in Germany – are available through the SKM National Office.
Sozialdienst katholischer Frauen – Zentrale e.V.

*Catholic Women’s Social Service – Central Office*

Agnes-Neuhaus-Str. 5; D–44135 Dortmund
Tel.: +49 231 557026–0; Fax: +49 231 557026–60
E-Mail: info@skf-zentrale.de; Internet: www.skf-zentrale.de

The Catholic Women’s Social Service (SkF) concentrates on social work. It is a professional youth service association, offers special assistance to women and families and aid for people in difficult life situations, and it is recognised as a central specialist association within German Caritas Catholic Social Welfare Agency (Deutscher Caritasverband). SkF was founded by Agnes Neuhaus in 1899 and is based on the idea that there are hardships and conflict situations that especially affect women and in which women can provide particular types of assistance.

Active throughout Germany, SkF has 150 local associations and has a paid staff of approximately 5,000. It also has approximately 14,000 members and volunteers. A key element in its work is co-operation between the volunteers and the paid staff. The association’s professional activities focus on child and youth services. The priority areas in child and youth services are: assistance and support for institutions and families, children and young people, help in stressful situations and crises, combined accommodation and support services for children, young people, pregnant women and parents with children.

**LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS**

The contact details of the local associations of the Catholic Women’s Social Service (SkF) are available at www.skf-zentrale.de.
Volkssolidarität Bundesverband e. V.

People’s Solidarity Association

Bundesgeschäftsstelle
Alte Schönhauser Str. 16; D-10119 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 278970; Fax: +49 30 27593959
E-Mail: bundesverband@volkssolidaritaet.de; Internet: www.volkssolidaritaet.de

People’s Solidarity was founded in October 1945 in eastern Germany to alleviate the severe social hardship, suffering and misery after the end of the War. The association has a long tradition of social service to the elderly, the chronically ill, those in need of care, socially disadvantaged persons and – increasingly – to children and young people. From the very beginning, the association’s activities have been based on solidarity.

Today, the activities of People’s Solidarity as a social and welfare organisation cover three areas. The association’s membership consists of people who need solidarity and who provide it; joint experiences of and active co-operation in the areas of culture, education, sport and travel are characteristic of the association’s activities. With services tailored to individual needs, its social services and facilities offer many people help and support in their daily lives. As a social-policy interest group, People’s Solidarity gives a voice to the weakest members of society and works to promote social justice and further harmonisation of living conditions in eastern and western Germany.

With around 320,000 members in more than 5,300 membership groups, and over 15,500 staff, People’s Solidarity is one of Germany’s large social and social welfare organisations. More than 31,000 volunteers put in approximately 5.7 million hours per year and thus represent a considerable social added value for the whole polity.

As a social and social welfare association, People’s Solidarity has been a living community for decades and has been offering services to both younger and older people. Today they include numerous facilities and services for senior citizens, health care, children, young people and families. In the area of aid to children and young people, People’s Solidarity runs 567 leisure and meeting centres, 381 day-care centres for children, 16 homes for children and young people, and 55 leisure and recreational facilities in open youth work (as at 2007).
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY, REPRESENTATION BODIES OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICE PROFESSIONS

10.1 NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION BODIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN ALL FIELDS OF CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ
Child and Youth Welfare Association

Arbeitsstelle für Jugendseelsorge der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz
Office for Youth Pastoral Care of the German Episcopal Conference

Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e.V.
German Association for Public and Private Welfare

jugendhaus düsseldorf e.V.
Youth House Duesseldorf

10.2 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND EDUCATIONAL COUNSELLING, ADVENTURE EDUCATION

AFET – Bundesverband für Erziehungshilfe e.V.
AFET Federal Association for Educational Supervisory Services

Arbeitskreis Neue Erziehung e.V.
Association for a New Education

bsj Verein zur Förderung bewegungs- und sportorientierter Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.
bsj Association for the Promotion of Exercise and Sports-related Youth Social Work

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder in Adoptiv- und Pflegefamilien e.V.
German Working Committee for Children in Adoptive and Foster Families

Bundeskonferenz für Erziehungsberatung e.V.
Federal Conference for Educational Counselling Services and Child Guidance

Bundesverband Individual- und Erlebnispädagogik e.V.
Federal Association of Adventure Education

Bundesverband katholischer Einrichtungen und Dienste der Erziehungshilfen e.V.
National Association of Catholic Establishments and Services for Education Services

Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugend- und Eheberatung e.V.
German Association for Youth and Marriage Counselling

Deutscher Arbeitskreis für Jugend-, Ehe- und Familienberatung
German Co-ordination Committee for Youth, Marriage and Family Counselling

Evangelischer Erziehungsverband e.V.
Protestant Association for Education
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY, REPRESENTATION BODIES OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICE PROFESSIONS

10.3 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Kinderschutz-Zentren e. V.  
 Federal Association of Child Protection Centres  
 650

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz e. V.  
 Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People  
 651

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mehr Sicherheit für Kinder e. V.  
 Safe Kids Germany  
 654

Bundesverein zur Prävention von sexuellem Missbrauch an Jungen und Mädchen e. V.  
 Federal Association for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Boys and Girls  
 655

Deutsche Gesellschaft gegen Kindesmisshandlung und -vernachlässigung e. V.  
 German Society against Child Abuse and Neglect  
 656

Deutsche Verkehrswacht e. V.  
 German Association for the Prevention of Road Accidents  
 657

Informationszentrum Kindesmisshandlung/Kindervernachlässigung (IzKK)  
 Information Centre Child Abuse and Neglect  
 658

N. I. N. A. Nationale Infoline, Netzwerk und Anlaufstelle zu sexueller Gewalt an Mädchen und Jungen  
 N. I. N. A National Information Hotline, Network, and Contact Point for Sexual Violence against Girls and Boys  
 659
10.4 CHILDREN’S WELL-BEING, CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

“Macht Kinder stark für Demokratie!” e. V.
“Make Children Strong for Democracy!”

CHILDREN FOR A BETTER WORLD e. V.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für das hochbegabte Kind e. V.
German Society for Highly Gifted Children

Deutsche Liga für das Kind in Familie und Gesellschaft (Initiative gegen frühkindliche Deprivation) e. V.
German League for the Child in Family and Society – Initiative Against Deprivation in Early Childhood

Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Bundesverband e. V.
German Society for the Protection of Children

Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk e. V.
Children’s Charity of Germany

Deutsches Komitee für UNICEF e. V.
German Committee for UNICEF

ECPAT Deutschland e. V. – Arbeitsgemeinschaft zum Schutz der Kinder vor sexueller Ausbeutung
ECPAT Germany – Federal Association for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation

Initiative für Große Kinder e. V.
Initiative for Big Children

Mehr Zeit für Kinder e. V.
More Time for Children

National Coalition für die Umsetzung der UN-Kinderrechtskonvention in Deutschland
National Coalition for the Implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany

Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Verband e. V. – Fachverband für Kindheit und Bildung
Pestalozzi-Fröbel Association

Verband Anwalt des Kindes (Bundesverband) e. V.
Association ‘A Child’s Lawyer’ (Federal Association)
10.5  (DAY) CARE FOR CHILDREN

Aktionskomitee KIND IM KRANKENHAUS Bundesverband e. V.  
Action Committee Child in the Hospital Federal Association  
679

Bundesverband für Kindertagespflege e. V. Bildung. Erziehung. Betreuung  
Federal Association for Child Day Care. Education. Upbringing. Support.  
680

Bundesverband Katholischer Vorsorge- und Rehabilitationseinrichtungen für Kinder und Jugendliche e. V.  
Federal Association of Catholic Preventive and Rehabilitation Institutions for Children and Young People  
681

Bundesverband Kinderhospiz e. V.  
National Association of Children’s Hospices  
682

Bundesvereinigung Evangelischer Tageseinrichtungen für Kinder e. V.  
Federal Association of Protestant Day-Care Centres for Children  
683

Das fröhliche Krankenzimmer e. V.  
The Happy Patient’s Room  
684

SOS-Kinderdorf e. V.  
SOS Children’s Villages  
685

Verband Katholischer Tageseinrichtungen für Kinder (KTK) – Bundesverband e. V.  
National Association of Catholic Day Care Centres for Children  
686

10.6  OPEN CHILD AND YOUTH WORK

Bund der Jugendfarmen und Aktivspielplätze e. V.  
Federation of Youth Farms and Adventure Playgrounds  
687

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Offene Kinder- und Jugendeinrichtungen e. V.  
Federal Association of Public Child and Youth Facilities  
688

Bundesvereinigung Soziokultureller Zentren e. V.  
Federal Union of Sociocultural Centres  
690

Jugendweihe Deutschland e. V.  
Youth Dedication Germany  
692

10.7  LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH, SERVICES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Straffälligenhilfe e. V.  
Federal Association Aid to Offenders  
693
10.8 DRUG AND ADDICTION PREVENTION

Alateen – Selbsthilfegruppen für Kinder und jugendliche Angehörige von Alkoholikern
Alateen – Self-Help Group for Children and Young Relatives of Alcoholics

Bund für drogenfreie Erziehung e. V.
Alliance for Drug-Free Education

Deutsche Hauptstelle für Suchtfragen e. V.
German Centre For Addiction Issues

Fachverband Drogen und Rauschmittel e. V.
Association “Drugs and Narcotics”

Fachverband Sucht e. V.
Association “Addiction”

Gesamtverband für Suchtkrankenhilfe im Diakonischen Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e. V.
National Association of Addiction Assistance Services in the Diakonie Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany

Kreuzbund e. V.
Federation of the Cross

10.9 SOCIAL WORK, OCCUPATIONAL SUPPORT AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE YOUNG, MIGRATION

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit e. V.
Federal Association for Protestant Youth Social Work

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Katholische Jugendsozialarbeit e. V.
Federal Association for Catholic Youth Social Work

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft örtlich regionaler Träger der Jugendsozialarbeit e. V.
Federal Association of Local and Regional Providers of Youth Social Services

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Streetwork/Mobile Jugendarbeit e. V.
Federal Association Streetwork/Mobile Youth Work
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY, REPRESENTATION BODIES OF THE CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICE PROFESSIONS

Christliches Jugenddorfwerk Deutschlands e. V.  711
Christian Association of Youth Villages

HENRY MASKE PLACE FOR KIDS Stiftung  712
HENRY MASKE Foundation PLACE FOR KIDS

IN VIA Katholischer Verband für Mädchen- und Frauensozialarbeit – Deutschland e. V.  713
IN VIA Catholic Girls’ Social Work – German Organisation

Internationaler Bund (IB) Freier Träger der Jugend-, Sozial- und Bildungsarbeit e. V.  714
International Federation of non-profit organisation for youth work, social work and training

Katholische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Migration (KAM)  715
Catholic Working Group for Migration

Kooperationsverbund Jugendsozialarbeit  716
Co-operative Federation for Youth Social Work

Off Road Kids e. V. – Perspektiven für Straßenkinder in Deutschland  717
Off Road Kids – Perspectives for Street Children in Germany

Otto Benecke Stiftung e. V.  718
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Salesianer Don Boscos  719
Salesians of Don Bosco

SOLWODI Deutschland e. V. – Solidarität mit Frauen in Not –  720
SOLWODI – Solidarity with Women in Distress -

Verein zur Förderung kultureller und beruflicher Bildung von Jugendlichen und jungen Erwachsenen – BBJ e. V.  721
Association for the Promotion of Cultural and Vocational Education for Youth and Young adults

10.10 SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugendschrifttum für Blinde e. V.  722
Association of Youth Literature for the Blind

Best Buddies Deutschland e. V.  723
Best Buddies Germany

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Federal Working Group of Vocational Training Centres

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Clubs Behindertemder und ihrer Freunde e. V.  725
Federal Association of Clubs for the Disabled and Friends

Bundesverband behinderter Pflegekinder e. V.  726
Federal Organisation for Disabled Foster Children
Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung e. V.  
Federal Association of Lebenshilfe of People with Intellectual Disabilities

Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe e. V.  
German AIDS Service

Deutsche Behindertenhilfe Aktion Mensch e. V.  
German Service Aid for the Disabled – Human Being Campaign

Deutscher Blinden- und Sehbehindertenverband e. V.  
German Association for the Blind and the Visually Impaired

LERNEN FÖRDERN – Bundesverband zur Förderung von Menschen mit Lernbehinderungen e. V.  
PROMOTE LEARNING – Federal Association for the Support of People with Learning Disabilities

10.11 QUALIFICATIONS AND STAFF

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der öffentlichen und freien, nicht konfessionell gebundenen Ausbildungsstätten für Erzieherinnen und Erzieher  
German Working Group of Public and Private Non-denominational Training Centres for Educators

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelischer Familien-Bildungsstätten e. V.  
Federal Association of Protestant Family Education Centres

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft katholischer Ausbildungsstätten für Erzieherinnen/Erzieher in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
Federal Working Group of Catholic Educator Training Centres in the Federal Republic of Germany

Bundesverband evangelischer Ausbildungsstätten für Sozialpädagogik  
Federal Working Group of Protestant Educator Training Centres

Bundesverband privater Träger der freien Kinder-, Jugend- und Sozialhilfe e. V.  
Federal Association of Private Voluntary Child, Youth and Social Service Organisations

Burckhardthaus – Evangelisches Institut für Jugend-, Kultur- und Sozialarbeit e. V.  
Burckhardthaus – Protestant Institute for Youth and Social Work

Camino – Werkstatt für Fortbildung, Praxisbegleitung und Forschung im sozialen Bereich gGmbH  
Camino – Workshop for Education, Practice, Supervision and Research in the Social Sector

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Supervision e. V.  
German Society for Supervision

Deutscher Berufsverband für Soziale Arbeit e. V.  
German Federation of Social Workers

Europäische Akademie für Frauen in Politik und Wirtschaft Berlin e. V.  
European Academy for Women in Politics and Business Berlin
10.12 POLICIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Feministischer Projekte gegen sexuelle Gewalt an Mädchen und Frauen e. V.

German Working Group of Feminist Projects to Combat Sexual Violence against Girls and Women

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mädchenträne e. V.

Federal Association of Girls’ Policy
National Professional Representation Bodies and Institutions in All Fields of Child and Youth Services

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ

Child and Youth Welfare Association

Mühlendamm 3, D-10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 40040–200; Fax: +49 30 40040–232
E-Mail: agj@agj.de; Internet: www.agj.de

AGJ, the Child and Youth Welfare Association (founded in 1949 by the name of Welfare Association for Youth Care and Youth Welfare) is the forum and network of central German unions, organisations and institutions of private and public youth welfare in Germany. The approximately 100 members of AGJ work and act together in the interest of youth and political communication and co-operation on a national level, but also in a European or international context, and form a youth policy network in the six AGJ member groups:

- central German youth associations and state youth councils
- central German umbrella organisations of non-public welfare providers
- central German specialist organisation for youth services
- the Highest Länder Youth and Family Authorities
- the Federal Association for Land Youth Offices (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Landesjugendämter)
- associations and organisations that are active on a national level in the fields of staff and qualifications (training, continued education and further training) for youth services.

AGJ pursues its goals and tasks, and its programmes and services, on various levels: AGJ makes statements and recommendations to legislators by compiling and evaluating the specialist knowledge and views of its members. With suggestions and recommendations for action, as well as position papers on work and practice in child and youth services, and by various types of events on central tasks and topics of child and youth services, AGJ constantly campaigns for the further development and improvement of practical conditions in child and youth services.

The AGJ awards the German Child and Youth Services Prize (Deutscher Kinder- und Jugendhilfepreis) and holds this competition every two years. The prize is donated by the Highest Länder Youth and Family Authorities (Oberste Landesjugend- und Familienbehörden). The publication of the award-winning work aims to promote and support the theory and practice of AGJ and to get other groups interested in their activities.
With the National Child and Youth Services Congress (Deutscher Kinder- und Jugendhilfetag), which takes place every four years, AGJ offers a national and central forum for exchange of experience, for discussion and continued education in the child and youth services sector. The National Child and Youth Services Congress aims to jointly implement improved general conditions for children and young people in society.

As the “German National Committee for Education in Early Childhood” (Deutsches Nationalkomitee für Erziehung im frühen Kindesalter), AGJ represents the field of preschool education by child and youth services of the Federal Republic of Germany in OMEP, the global organisation. AGJ is a member of EuroChild – The European Network Promoting the Rights and Welfare of Children and Young People. Taking into account the special structure of German child and youth services, AGJ represents joint positions of child and youth services in this organisation and particularly on the European level.

AGJ also participates in the International Working Group for Youth Affairs (Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendfragen, IAGJ) at regular specialist discussions with representatives of child and youth services from the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland and with a particular focus on youth rights and family rights. The “National Monitoring and Co-ordination Office of Child and Youth (service) Policy in Europe – NaBuK” (Nationale Beobachtungs- und Koordinierungsstelle Kinder- und Jugend(hilfe) politik in Europa), which was established as an AGJ project in 2006, acts as mediator between German child and youth services and European developments and opportunities.

On behalf of the German Government, AGJ runs two annual international exchange programmes for experts from child and youth services and social professions. The International Study Programme (ISP) gives foreign experts the opportunity to learn about the theory and practice of German child and youth services and social work in a two-month stay in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Council of International Programmes (CIP) offers German experts the opportunity to spend a study and work trip of several months in the USA.

Since 1995, AGJ has been a legal entity for the National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany (National Coalition für die Umsetzung der UN-Kinderrechtskonvention in Deutschland), which was founded at that time.

In co-operation with IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB – Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland), AGJ also implements the project entitled “Child and Youth Service Professionals’ Portal” (Fachkräfteportal der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe). The goal of this website is to act as a central platform for specialist information, communication and co-operation for all professionals active in child and youth services.

MEMBERS

**YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS AND STATE YOUTH COUNCILS**

Co-ordinated by:

- Deutscher Bundesjugendring

**YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland e.V.
- Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend
- Bund der Deutschen Landjugend im Deutschen Bauernverband e.V.
- Bund Deutscher PfadfinderInnen e.V.
- Bundesjugendwerk der Arbeiterwohlfahrt e.V.
- Jugend im dbb beamtenbund und tarifunion (dbb-jugend)
- Deutsche Pfadfinderherrschaft Sankt Georg
- Deutsche Schreibjugend Bundesverband e.V.
- Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund (DOSB) e.V.
- Deutsche Wanderjugend im Verband Deutscher Gebirgs- und Wandervereine e.V.
- DGB-Jugend
- djo – Deutsche Jugend in Europa Bundesverband e.V.
- Jugend der Deutschen Lebens-Rettungs-Gesellschaft
INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION BODIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN ALL FIELDS OF CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

10.1

- Jugend des Deutschen Alpenvereins
- Naturfreundjugend Deutschlands
- Ring Deutscher Pfadfinderinnenverbände
- Solidaritätsjugend Deutschlands
- Sozialistische Jugend Deutschlands – Die Falken

STATE YOUTH COUNCILS

- Bayerischer Jugendring
- Bremer Jugendring/ Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Bremer Jugendverbände e.V.
- Hessischer Jugendring e.V.
- Kinder- und Jugendring Sachsen e.V.
- Kinder- und Jugendring Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.
- Landesjugendring Baden-Württemberg e.V.
- Landesjugendring Berlin e.V.
- Landesjugendring Brandenburg e.V.
- Landesjugendring Hamburg e.V.
- Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V.
- Landesjugendring Niedersachsen e.V.
- Landesjugendring Nordrhein-Westfalen e.V.
- Landesjugendring Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.
- Landesjugendring Saar e.V.
- Landesjugendring Schleswig-Holstein e.V.
- Landesjugendring Thüringen e.V.

UMBRELLA ASSOCIATIONS OF NON-PUBLIC YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS

Co-ordinated by:
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege e.V.
- Arbeiterwohlfahrt – Bundesverband e.V.
- Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.
- Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.
- Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz e.V.
- Co-ordinated by:
- Bundesverband zur Förderung von Menschen mit Lernbehinderungen e.V.
- SOS-Kinderdorf e.V.
- terre des hommes Deutschland – Hilfe für Kinder in Not
- Kommunautés Educatives (FICE) e.V.
- Sektion Deutschland der Fédération Internationale des Jeux de la Jeunesse
- Jugendgerichtshilfen e.V.
- Bundesverband der Freien Wohlfahrtsverbände Deutschland e.V.
- Mensch mit Lernbehinderung e.V.
- Deutscher Pfadfinderinnen- und Bildungsverband e.V.
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege e.V.
- Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste Bundesver ein e.V. – Gesellschaft für internationale und politische Bildung
- Internationaler Bund (IB) Freier Träger der Jugend-, Sozial- und Bildungsarbeit e.V.
- LERNEN FÖRDERN – Bundesverband zur Förderung von Menschen mit Lernbehinderungen e.V.
- Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Verband e.V. – Fachverband für Kindheit und Bildung
- HIGHEST LÄNDER YOUTH AND FAMILY AUTHORITIES

Co-ordinated by:
- Ministerium für Bildung, Jugend und Sport des Landes Brandenburg
- Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung, Familie und Frauen
- Ministerium für Arbeit und Soziales Baden-Württemberg
- Landesjugendring Saar e.V.
- Landesjugendring Nordrhein-Westfalen e.V.
- Landesjugendring Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.
- Landesjugendring Saar e.V.
- Landesjugendring Thüringen e.V.

SPECIALIST YOUTH SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Co-ordinated by:
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz e.V.
- AFET – Bundesverband für Erziehungshilfe e.V.
- Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten e.V.
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Offene Kinder- und Jugendeinrichtungen e.V.
- BundesForum Kinder- und Jugendspreizen e.V.
- Bundeskonferenz für Erziehungsberatung e.V.
- Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung e.V.
- Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung e.V.
- Deutsche Vereinigung für Jugendarbeit und Jugendhilfe e.V.
- Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Bundesverband e.V.
- Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk, Hauptverband für Jugendwander und Jugendherbergen e.V.
- Evangelischer Erziehungsverband e.V.
- Internationale Gesellschaft für erzieherische Hilfen – Sektion Deutschland der Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE) e.V.

- Ministerium für Bildung, Jugend und Sport des Landes Brandenburg
- Heinrich-Mann-Allee 107, D–14473 Potsdam, Tel. +49 331 866–0, poststelle@mbjs.brandenburg.de, www.mbjs.brandenburg.de

- Ministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft, Jugend und Kultur des Landes Rheinland Pfalz
- Mittlere Bleiche 61, D–55116 Mainz, Tel. +49 6131 16–0, poststelle@mbwjk.rlp.de, www.mbwjk.rlp.de

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10.1 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY

Ministerium für Generationen, Familie, Frauen und Integration des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen
Horionplatz 1, D–40213 Düsseldorf,
Tel. +49 211 8618-50,
info@mgffn.nrw.de, www.mgffn.nrw.de

Ministerium für Gesundheit und Soziales des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt
Turmschanzenstr. 25, D–39114 Magdeburg,
Tel. +49 391 167-01,
ms-presse@ms.lsa-net.de,
www.ms.sachsen-anhalt.de

Ministerium für Bildung, Familie, Frauen und Kultur des Saarlandes
Hohenzollernstr. 60, D–66117 Saarbrücken,
Tel. +49 681 501-7404,
poststelle@bildung.saarland.de,
www.bildung.saarland.de

Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport Baden-Württemberg
Schlossplatz 4, D–70173 Stuttgart,
Postfach 10 34 42, D–70029 Stuttgart,
Tel. +49 711 279-0,
poststelle@km.kv.bwl.de,
www.kultusministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de

Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Familie und Senioren des Landes Schleswig-Holstein
Adolf-Westphal-Str. 4, D–24143 Kiel,
Tel. +49 431 988-0,
poststelle@sozmi.landsh.de,
www.sozialministerium.schleswig-holstein.de

Ministerium für Soziales und Gesundheit des Landes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Dreescher Markt 2, D–19061 Schwerin,
Tel. +49 385 388-0,
poststelle@sozial.mv.de

Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Soziales und Jugend und Gesundheit
Hinrich-Wilhelm-Kopf-Platz 2, D–30159 Hannover,
Tel. +49 511 120-0,
pressesstelle@ms.niedersachsen.de,
www.ms.niedersachsen.de

Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Soziales
Albertstr. 10, D–01097 Dresden,
Tel. +49 351 564-0,
poststelle@sms.sachsen.de,
www.sms.sachsen.de

Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung Berlin
Beuthstr. 6–8, D–10117 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 8026-7,
brieftasen@senbsverwalt-berlin.de,
www.berlin.de/sen/bvfb

Thüringer Ministerium für Soziales, Familie und Gesundheit
Werner-Seelenbinder-Str. 6, D–99096 Erfurt,
Tel. +49 361 37900,
poststelle@tmgsf.thueringen.de,
www.thueringen.de/de/tmgsf

FEDERAL ASSOCIATION LAND YOUTH OFFICES
Co-ordinated by:
Bayerisches Landesjugendamt
www.bagfjae.de

STAFF AND QUALIFICATIONS
Co-ordinated by:
Deutsches Jugendinstitut e.V.
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaften

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaften

Deutscher Berufsverband für Soziale Arbeit e.V.
Deutsches Jugendinstitut e.V.

Fachbereichstag Soziale Arbeit

Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der öffentlichen und freien, nicht konfessionell gebundenen Ausbildungsstätten für Erzieherinnen und Erzieher

STAFF AND QUALIFICATIONS
Co-ordinated by:
Deutsches Jugendinstitut e.V.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Supervision e.V.

Deutschland

Bundesverband evangelischer Ausbildungsstätten für Sozialpädagogik

Saarlandes

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft katholischer Ausbildungsstätten für Erzieherinnen/Erzieher

Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der öffentlichen und freien, nicht konfessionell gebundenen Ausbildungsstätten für Erzieherinnen und Erzieher

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaften

Deutscher Berufsverband für Soziale Arbeit e.V.

Deutsches Jugendinstitut e.V.

Stiftung Sozialpädagogisches Institut Berlin – Walter May – Stiftung der Arbeiterwohlfahrt Landesverband Berlin e.V.

ver.di – Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft e.V.
Paula-Thiede-Ufer 10, D–10179 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 6956-0, Fax +49 30 6956-3141,
info@verdi.de, www.verdi.de
Arbeitsstelle für Jugendseelsorge der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz

Office for Youth Pastoral Care of the German Episcopal Conference

Carl-Mosterts-Platz 1; D-40477 Düsseldorf
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E-Mail: leitung@afj.de; Internet: www.afj.de

Based on the principles included in the Guidelines for Youth Pastoral Services of the German Episcopal Conference of 1991, the Office for Youth Pastoral Care of the German Episcopal Conference (afj) is responsible for the official services of the Catholic Church for young people.

The basic mission of the Office for Youth Pastoral Care – formerly: Central Office for Youth Pastoral Care (Hauptstelle für Jugendseelsorge) –, which was founded in 1945, is the intensive co-operation and communication with providers of pastoral care/services for young people. The Federation of German Catholic Youth (Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend) is its most important partner. It discharges its basic responsibilities by promoting, coordinating and developing the youth work of the Catholic Church and by supporting its structures in the dioceses, in youth organisations, religious orders and other providers of church youth work. The nutshell formula ‘guidance – support – networking’ describes this working method, which is illustrated in concrete terms by hosting expert meetings and education courses, by publishing magazines and books, and by organising lectures and research projects.
Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e.V.

German Association for Public and Private Welfare

Michaelkirchstr. 17-18; D-10179 Berlin
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E-Mail: info@deutscher-verein.de; Internet: www.deutscher-verein.de

As a union of public and private providers of social work, the German Association for Public and Private Welfare has been campaigning since 1880 for social policy developments, including the definition of social legislation and social welfare, the further development of child and youth services, services for the aged and disabled, promotion of voluntary social involvement or participation in the evolution of a social Europe. As a result, it offers its affiliates from all over Europe a forum to discuss social issues, developments and reform plans in social work.

Its main tasks lie in stimulating and co-designing developments in social policy, as well as in devising recommendations for the practice of social work. Furthermore, it provides expert opinions on social legislation, provides continuous information to individual active in this field and promotes the sciences that are relevant for social work. In the international sector, the German Association monitors the development of social work in other countries and promotes co-operation, particularly the work of the International Social Service in Geneva, and it is commissioned to implement these activities in Germany. In addition, it issues various publications on fundamental issues and current developments in all sectors of social work.

The German Association helps to negotiate feasible joint concepts between public and private social work providers, between practitioners, policy-makers and researchers, and between the various professional groups. It offers its members a possibility to exchange views on upcoming reform projects. In general, the German Welfare Day (Deutscher Fürsorgetag, DFT) is held every three years, which – as a national expert congress – is the most important forum for public and private providers of social work, for researchers and policy-makers. Its content-related work is supervised by specialist committees. Furthermore, the German Association offers numerous continuous education and specialist events in the area of social work.

The International Social Service (Internationaler Sozialdienst, ISD) has been part of the German Association since 2001, and deals with all matters and cases of international social work beyond Germany’s national borders (family conflicts, risks to child welfare, migration and adoption). The German National Committee of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) has been a member of the German Association for Public and Private Welfare since 1976; it is the German national ICSW agency. ICSW is responsible for the promotion of international co-operation by bilateral and multilateral exchanges of experiences.

MEMBERS
The members of the German Association for Public and Private Welfare include cities, counties and municipalities, as well as their umbrella organisations and the umbrella organisations of private welfare service providers, the government and the Länder, institutes of higher education and universities of applied science, social services and their institutions, training centres and social work experts. It has a total of 2,500 members.
jugendhaus düsseldorf e.V.

Youth House Duesseldorf

Carl-Mosterts-Platz 1; D-40477 Düsseldorf
Tel.: +49 211 4693-0; Fax: +49 211 4693-120
E-Mail: jhd@jugendhaus-duesseldorf.de
Internet: www.jugendhaus-duesseldorf.de

Youth House Duesseldorf is a non-profit association, which is sponsored jointly by the Federation of German Catholic Youth (Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend) and the Office for Youth Pastoral Care of the German Episcopal Conference (Arbeitsstelle für Jugendsorge der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz).

The purpose of the association is the promotion and support of inter-diocesan and nationwide Catholic youth work, where the association considers itself as a service organisation for Catholic youth work, which it supports and promotes in various ways. Two of its central areas are its responsibility as one of the responsible central offices liaising with various institutions and Federal ministries (in matters of the Federal Child and Youth Plan etc.) and the management of commercial businesses.

The insurance department offers a wide range of insurance covering all kinds of activities for groups from all spheres and of all ages (focus: children and youth groups). The publishing and the sales department are in charge of producing and selling materials, teaching aids and books developed in Youth House Duesseldorf, where they partly co-operate with other publishing houses and also offer their production services to external partners. In its non-profit activities and as the Federal centre of Catholic youth work, Youth House Duesseldorf is responsible for ensuring the management and allocation of public funding. With the exception of “international youth work”, it is only able to fund representative projects of federation-wide (national) significance. Its addressees are primarily central providers of Catholic youth work. The Central Office also acts as the voice of Catholic youth service providers. It pools their interests and represents them vis-à-vis ministries and bilateral youth offices.
AFET Federal Association for Educational Supervisory Services

Osterstr. 27; D–30159 Hannover
Tel.: +49 511 353991–40; Fax: +49 511 353991–50
E-Mail: info@afet-ev.de; Internet: www.afet-ev.de

AFET is a national non-denominational federation of service providers, facilities and services for educational supervision. Its principal members are educational supervision facilities, municipal youth offices, state youth offices as well as the supervisory youth authorities of the Länder (Federal states) and national associations of voluntary welfare organisations. AFET considers itself as a platform for dialogue. It consults and supports its members and is involved in the professional qualification of educational services.

AFET’s mission consists of: ad 1) the promotion of a professional discourse and knowledge transfer a) among specialised practitioners, b) between academics, researchers, practitioners and politicians, and c) with related disciplines; and ad 2) the initiation of and support for research of practical relevance.

In this context, it organises professional conferences and expert discussions, issues publications (the quarterly magazine “Dialogue in supervisory educational services” (Dialog Erziehungshilfe) as well as the AFET publication series), provides study aids for practitioners (the “Expertise” series), offers consultation to its members on professional issues, and exerts its influence on the legislative process and the education of professionals in this field.

The governing bodies of AFET are its General Assembly and its Board. Members may participate – also on a temporary basis – in AFET’s expert bodies (Expert Advisory Board and Expert Committees).

MEMBERS

Educational service facilities (approx. 200 smaller facilities, combined systems of voluntary and public service providers), youth offices (approx. 120), youth offices and supervisory youth authorities of the Länder (19), the national associations of voluntary welfare organisations, other associations (approx. 75 professional associations as well as regional structures of national associations), education and training facilities (approx. 35; technical college for social and special education, polytechnics, universities). In addition, representatives of local youth authorities are delegated by the national associations of municipalities and cities.
Arbeitskreis Neue Erziehung e. V.

Association for a New Education

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In 1946, parents and teachers founded the Association for a New Education (ANE). They wanted to counter the educational ideology of the national socialist dictatorship by a new concept of partnership and coexistence with children and young people. Its democratic philosophy has continued to be the vision for its activities to the present day: ANE supports parents in educating their children to be self-assured members of a democratic society, to respect others and to be prepared to take responsibility for themselves and others. Its target groups are all parents irrespective of their social or ethnic background. In line with this objective, ANE is engaged in a continuous process of intercultural openness and orients its activities to the needs of a multicultural society.

In its projects, ANE focuses on direct dialogue: in line with its slogan “With parents – for parents”, it initiates meetings with parents, expert researchers and practitioners and individuals working for young parents and a worthwhile future for their children. This principle applies to the development of media as well as its entire education and consultancy programme.

ANE’s (partially) bilingual parental newsletters are disseminated nationwide and support parents in the education of their children. In Berlin, the parental newsletter programme is extended by newsletters for primary schools (up to grade 6). The migration-specific media programme is supplemented by materials on migration-related educational issues and an audiovisual show.

Apart from seminars on specific topics and other events, ANE offers nationwide further education courses to enhance the intercultural qualifications and to promote the intercultural openness of German facilities. These courses also include a modular education programme on the issue of “early childhood education” for migrant parents and associations. ANE operates an intercultural education and family counselling centre in Berlin. JuSt – Youth mediators (Jugendliche schlichten Streit) – its mediation and conflict settlement training for students, parents and teachers as well as interdisciplinary teams working in social hotspots – is one of the programmes run by ANE in Berlin.

The ANE database “BEN – National parents’ network” (BundesweitesElternNetz) – provides web-based information to parents and includes more than 5,000 programme offers for parents with children below 6 years of age. The database entries are available for a search by key word or address. In co-operation with providers in other regions, BEN will be extended to the entire Federal Republic of Germany. The ANE website www.aktiv-fuer-kinder.de addresses issues of social relevance from the perspective of children and migrants and is addressed to parents, experts and initiatives.

ANE receives funding from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ)), the Department of Education and Science and Research of the Government of Land Berlin (Berliner Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung) and various foundations including the internationally active Bernard van Leer Foundation (The Hague).

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bsj Verein zur Förderung bewegungs- und sportorientierter Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.

bsj Association for the Promotion of Exercise and Sports-related Youth Social Work

Biegenstr. 40, D-35037 Marburg
Tel.: +49 6421 68533-0; Fax: +49 6421 68533-22
E-Mail: kontakt@bsj-marburg.de; Internet: www.bsj-marburg.de

bsj, the Association for the Promotion of Exercise and Sports-related Youth Social Work is a youth service provider that is affiliated with the Paritätische Gesamtverband (Der Paritätische Gesamtverband). Making the physical parts of youth lifestyles the starting point and medium for social work is the guiding idea of the institution that was founded in 1986. The socio-educational practice of bsj in the leisure, school and vocational training sector is mainly targeted at socially disadvantaged female and male children and young people.

Activities focussing on adventure, physical activity and exercise play a central role.

In bsj, an interdisciplinary team of sports educators, social workers and social educators, sports sociologists, teachers and people with training in arts and crafts work together to implement and constantly further develop physical-, exercise- and adventure-related social work.

bsj operates three education and leisure centres. Since 1993, the Association has supported a youth meeting and education centre at the small Stettin lagoon in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. In this Centre for Adventure and Environmental Education (Zentrum für Erlebnispädagogik und Umweltbildung, ZERUM) both ecologically oriented projects and, in particular, German-Polish youth exchange activities and integration programmes are realised for disabled and non-disabled children and young people. In the Central Hessian town of Gladenchach, bsj has been developing an “Extracurricular Learning Location” since 1998, whose work focuses on the sector of physical and exercise-related education. The bsj training centre is located in Weimar-Wolfshausen, and is run in close co-operation with the district of Marburg-Biedenkopf.

On the basis of its conceptual-theoretical preparation and its long-standing practical experiences – for more than 20 years, the Association has been commissioned by European as well as national and state authorities, to carry out model projects – bsj offers continuous education for social and educational experts, and organises regional and non-regional conferences on the topics of child and youth services. bsj regularly holds the nationwide conference on adventure education for the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend). The bsj Counselling Institute supports communities and private youth service providers in the development of youth service concepts and measures.

The work of bsj and its model projects are monitored by the Institute for Sports Sciences and Motology of the University of Marburg.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder in Adoptiv- und Pflegefamilien e.V.

German Working Committee for Children in Adoptive and Foster Families

Heimgart 8; D-40883 Ratingen
Tel.: +49 2102 67218; Fax: +49 2102 67245
E-Mail: info@kiap.de; Internet: www.kiap.de

The German Working Committee for Children in Adoptive and Foster Families has made it its task to represent the interests of adoptive and foster children and their families. Providers active in the care of adoptive and foster children are interconnected, innovative work is promoted to improve adoptive and foster care and public relations are carried out for adoptive and foster children and their families.

The German Working Committee for Children in Adoptive and Foster Families also works for the recognition of the needs, rights and views of adoptive and foster children. It supports the adoptive and foster families and their unions and creates a network of associations, institutions, providers and organisations working for adoptive and foster children and their families. Furthermore, the Committee supports the work of its members, collects their knowledge and experiences, promotes their mutual exchange and incorporates the competence of their affiliates’ members in its own work. It represents its affiliates in specialist committees and participates in interdisciplinary networks.

The German Working Committee for Children in Adoptive and Foster Families works for children in care so that they can grow up in a safe and protected environment. For foster and adoptive parents, this safety means the confidence that they are well informed, well prepared, properly supported and treated as partners. The association clearly supports the placement of children in foster and adoptive families (§ 33 SGB (German Social Code), Volume VIII).

The addresses of Länder agencies and institutional affiliates are available on the website.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS AND AFFILIATES
A list of the Länder associations and the institutional affiliates can be found on the website at: www.kiap.de.
Bundeskonferenz für Erziehungsberatung e. V.

**Federal Conference for Educational Counselling Services and Child Guidance**

Herrnstr. 53; D-90763 Fürth  
Tel.: +49 911 977140; Fax: +49 911 745497  
E-Mail: bke@bke.de; Internet: www.bke.de

The Federal Conference for Educational Counselling Services and Child Guidance (bke) is a professional association for the counselling of educators, families and young people. On a voluntary basis, staff members in educational counselling centres established 16 Länder associations, which formed bke as their national conference.

bke’s statutory responsibilities include: promoting the exchange of experience and the dissemination of new insights into education and family counselling. In this context, bke hosts annual scientific conferences and expert meetings on topical issues, organises further education courses for the staff of education and family counselling centres; carries out regular surveys on the institutional and personal structure of education and family counselling centres as well as topical professional issues. bke submits its opinions on specific political issues of fundamental significance to authorities and associations, and provides information as a contribution to the design of everyday practices in counselling centres.

In its magazine “Information for education counselling centres”, bke provides details on significant education and family counselling issues and makes textbooks on important issues of education, family and youth counselling available to an interested public. On its homepage, bke also informs both seekers and providers of counselling about issues of education and family counselling.

On its website [www.bke-beratung.de](http://www.bke-beratung.de), it offers online counselling for young people and their parents.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

bke is represented nationwide through its 16 Länder associations for Educational Counselling Services and Child Guidance. The addresses are available at bke’s National Office.
Bundesverband Individual- und Erlebnispädagogik e.V.

Federal Association of Adventure Education

Hermannstr. 75, Hofgebäude 2; D-44263 Dortmund
Tel.: +49 231 99994-90 und -61; Fax: +49 231 99994-30
E-Mail: info@be-ep.de; Internet: www.be-ep.de

The Federal Association of Adventure Education (BE) is the successor organisation of the Federal Association for Educational and Therapeutic Sailing (Bundesverband Segeln-Pädagogik-Therapie), was originally founded in 1987 and re-established in 1992 with extended objectives and under its present name.

As a leading professional association, BE represents the diversity of working areas in individual and adventure education and of its members. Based on scientific support and principles, the Association communicates its holistic and action-orientated approach to the general public, politics and the media. It develops quality standards for various specialist areas and represents its 160 current members from Germany and abroad on the Länder level and the Federal level. Its affiliates represent groups of various institutions and Individuals. The objective of the Association is to promote individual and adventure education.

The Federal Association of Adventure Education has four departments: educational aids, class trips and group programmes, projects in youth work and youth social work as well as training and further education. The Association also promotes encounters, exchanges and co-operation; it is involved in expert conferences and numerous projects and tries to create a link between science and practice.

MEMBERS
BE’s affiliates are institutions, providers, facilities and individuals. The list is available on the BE website: www.be-ep.de. BE’s membership includes affiliates with nationwide activities, who are individually introduced below:

- BundesForum Kinder- und Jugendreisen e.V.
- Deutsches Jugendherbergswerk, Hauptverband für Jugendwandern und Jugendherbergen e.V.
- OUTWARD BOUND – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Europäische Erziehung e.V.
- Stiftung Leuchtfeuer
Bundesverband katholischer Einrichtungen und Dienste der Erziehungshilfen e.V.

National Association of Catholic Establishments and Services for Education Services

Karlstr. 40; D–79104 Freiburg
Tel.: +49 761 200–222 bis 226; Fax: +49 761 200–634
E-Mail: bvke@caritas.de; Internet: www.bvke.de

The National Association of Catholic Establishments and Services for Education Services (BVkE) is a union of Catholic institutions and services active in the field of education assistance. It is a recognised national association of Caritas Germany (Deutscher Caritasverband). It represents its members in the public sphere, in political and church bodies and institutions and promotes the further development of the Catholic church’s youth welfare activities in theory and practice. Specifically, BVkE pursues these goals with the following activities: representation of interests at the national level within the Catholic church; representation of interests in the government and society; promotion of co-operation and professional exchange between members by the establishment of specialised forums, amongst other things; co-operation with the bodies and associations of Caritas Germany; liaison with other professional organisations; initiating and promoting professional advanced training via projects, specialised conferences and practical research; development and publication of professional, political and institutional positions; initiation, promotion and performance of projects, by creating or supporting its own research institution for practical issues involving education; support for advanced training and education; organisation of national-level conferences and other specialised events. BVkE represents about 500 member institutions and services. Around 160 of the members are only active in the field of mobile educational services, while the other members are institutions which are primarily involved in non-mobile educational services, but which are also increasingly active in mobile service.
Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugend- und Eheberatung e.V.

German Association for Youth and Marriage Counselling

Neumarkter Str. 84C; D-81673 München
Tel.: +49 89 4361091; Fax: +49 89 4311266
E-Mail: info@dajeb.de; Internet: www.dajeb.de

The German Association for Youth and Marriage Counselling (DAJEB) was founded in 1949 and is a non-partisan, non-denominational and non-profit association. The goals of DAJEB are the initiation and the promotion of the expansion of youth and marriage counselling facilities, the arrangement of qualified continued and further education for its employees and the support of basic research in the field of marriage and family. The activity of DAJEB focuses on running three-year further education courses in marriage, family and life counselling, particularly for qualified psychologists and qualified social educators, as well as further education for counsellors on particular counselling aspects. Furthermore, DAJEB organises scientific annual conferences, provides advice and assistance to counselling facilities and their employees, makes statements on relevant national and Land parliamentary bills and carries out numerous projects on the topics of “pregnancy conflict counselling and family planning” as well as “counselling on separation and divorce”.

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ), it publishes the “Beratungsführer”, a directory of all psychosocial counselling facilities (currently approximately 12,000), which is also available online on the DAJEB homepage.

A further focus of its work is publications for those in search of counselling and the specialist public, including the brochure “Parents are still parents – Help for children in separation and divorce” (total circulation: more than 2 million copies).

DAJEB’s approximately 700 members include marriage, family and life counsellors, as well as counselling facilities for marriage, family and pregnancy counselling. DAJEB is a member of the Paritätische Gesamtverband (Der Paritätische Gesamtverband), the German Coordination Committee for Youth, Marriage and Family Counselling (Deutscher Arbeitskreis für Jugend-, Ehe- und Familienberatung, DAKJEF), the German Counselling Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Beratung, DgB) and the World Family Organization (WFO). It is mainly financed from public funding, particularly that of the BMFSFJ.
Deutscher Arbeitskreis für Jugend-, Ehe- und Familienberatung

German Co-ordination Committee for Youth, Marriage and Family Counselling

c/o Deutsche Bischofskonferenz
Kaiserstr. 161; D–53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 103223; Fax: +49 228 103334
E-Mail: s.schohe@dbk.de; Internet: www.dakjef.de

The German Co-ordination Committee for Youth, Marriage and Family Counselling (DAK) was founded in 1963. It is a contact and co-ordination committee of organisations in the Federal Republic of Germany who work in the field of education, youth, marriage, family, life and sexual counselling. It aims to represent the joint objectives of its affiliates, to enhance the contents and methods of education, youth, marriage, family, life and sexual counselling, to encourage co-operation in these fields and improve the general conditions for the work of these counselling centres. Every two years, he affiliates are alternatingly charged with the management of the Committee.

MEMBERS

Bundeskonferenz für Erziehungsberatung e. V.
Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugend- und Eheberatung e. V.
Evangelische Konferenz für Familien- und Lebensberatung e. V.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer-Haus, Ziegelstr. 30, D–10117 Berlin,
Tel: +49 30 283039–27, Fax: +49 30 283039–26, ekful@t-online.de, www.ekful.de

Katholische Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Beratung e. V.
Kaiserstr. 161, D–53113 Bonn,
Tel: +49 228 103–370, Fax +49 228 103–334,
www.katholische-beratung.de

pro familia – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Familienplanung, Sexualpädagogik und Sexualberatung e. V.
The Protestant Association for Education (EREV) was established in 1920 (then: Protestant Reich Association for Education). It is an association combining all organisations, which offer Protestant education services at the Federal level. As a Federal Association, EREV is a member of the Diakonie Social Welfare Organisation (Diakonisches Werk) of the Protestant Church in Germany. It promotes Christian-oriented services provided by its member organisations, which are active in extra-residential, semi-residential and residential settings offering education assistance services.

The Association represents the interests of 500 youth service institutions and organisations from all Länder. Combining the educational and organisational experience gathered in youth work is the basis, on which expertise and impetus is generated to promote the education assistance services of various institutions. Their work is focussed on safeguarding sustainable living conditions, which are conducive to the well-being of children, young adults and families.

The services provided by EREV include the evaluation and exchange of information, PR activities, organisation of symposia and events of continuous professional education, representation of its members’ interests etc.

**MEMBERS**

Approx. 500 Protestant legal entities (institutions, organisations, associations), whose task it is to educate and promote young people, are members of the Association. An organisation may only become a member of EREV, if it belongs to the Diakonisches Werk of the Länder Churches of the Protestant Church in Germany.
Internationale Gesellschaft für erzieherische Hilfen – Sektion Deutschland der Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE) e. V.

International Society for Educational Services – German Section of Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives – FICE

Schaumainkai 101–103; D–60596 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 633986–0; Fax: +49 69 633986–25
E-Mail: igfh@igfh.de; Internet: www.igfh.de

The International Society for Educational Services (IgfH) is a specialist organisation for educational services that acts on a national and – as the German section of the Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE) – international level. The German section is a member of the Paritätische Gesamtverband (Der Paritätische Gesamtverband). FICE was founded in 1948 with the assistance of UNESCO and includes national sections in 34 countries today. FICE is a non-governmental organisation of the UNESCO, of UNICEF and the Council of Europe.

IGfH regards itself as a lobby for the well-being and rights of children and adolescents that live in homes, residential institutions, or foster families or are supported through non-residential educational assistance. IGfH sees itself as a platform for the socio-educational dialogue on education aids on a broad basis.

IGfH has around 1,700 members, some of which are individuals, others social institutions for professional training, youth welfare facilities and services and governmental organisations and youth authorities. IGfH’s work covers working conferences and expert meetings, advanced training courses and study trips, consultancy service for members, research into specific issues of educational aid, expert opinions and recommendations and projects for the development of education aids. IGfH publishes a periodical, “Educational Services Forum” (Forum Erziehungshilfen).

MEMBERS

630 educational aid facilities and services, 25 training centres and research institutes, 25 local authority institutions/youth offices. For details, please contact the IGfH office.
Nummer gegen Kummer e.V

Child and Youth Helpline “Nummer gegen Kummer”

Kleiner Werth 34; D–42275 Wuppertal
Tel.: +49 202 259059–0; Fax: +49 202 259059–19
E-Mail: info@nummergegenkummer.de; Internet: www.nummergegenkummer.de

The “Nummer gegen Kummer” child and youth helpline was founded in 1980 and is the nation-wide umbrella organisation for child and youth helplines and parent helplines in Germany.

Through its members, the Child and Youth Helpline has built two national networks that offer counselling to children, adolescents, and parents. The association was founded in 1980, is headquartered in Wuppertal and has been the umbrella organisation and a recognised non-profit association since 1994. It is a member of the German Society for the Protection of Children (Deutscher Kinderschutzbund) and Childhelpline International, Amsterdam.

The advice hotlines can be called free of charge from anywhere in Germany under following telephone numbers:
- Child and Youth Helpline: +49 800 111033 (Monday to Friday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.);
- Parent Helpline: +49 800 1110550 (Mondays and Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.).

MEMBERS

The Affiliates of the Child and Youth Helpline “Nummer gegen Kummer” are mainly the local, regional or Länder associations of the German Society for the Protection of Children (Deutscher Kinderschutzbund, DKSB) and other organisations that operate a child and youth helpline or parent helpline. In addition to the DKSB, the Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church (Diakonisches Werk), the Samaritan Association (Arbeiter-Samariter Bund), the Movement for Child Youth Protection (Aktion Kinder- und Jugendschutz) and local non-profit clubs support the “Nummer gegen Kummer”. The range of services is expanded regularly. For contact addresses, please refer to www.nummergegenkummer.de.
OUTWARD BOUND – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Europäische Erziehung e.V.

OUTWARD BOUND – German Society for European Education

Berghausstr. 1; D-87645 Schwangau
Tel.: +49 8362 9822-0; Fax: +49 8362 9822-22
E-Mail: info@outwardbound.de; Internet: www.outwardbound.de

The association OUTWARD BOUND – German Society for European Education (DGEE) – was established in 1952. As a recognized provider of educational services, it stands for the classical concept of adventure education embodied in the traditions of the educational reformer Kurt Hahn. The first OUTWARD BOUND facilities – or “short schools”, as they were called at the time – were established in the 1950s in the aim of contributing to the new societal beginnings in the Federal Republic of Germany by offering programmes for personality development.

Today, OUTWARD BOUND regards itself as a provider of holistic learning concepts at the interface between employment, school and social services. In its education centres, which are located in challenging regions (the Alps, the Baltic Sea), it offers courses for young people and adults with a clear emphasis on outdoor sports. These courses are based on the concepts of social learning in group education. The details of the OUTWARD BOUND education centres are available at www.outwardbound.de.

Outward Bound is affiliated to the Federal Association of Adventure Education (Bundesverband Individual- und Erlebnispädagogik).
PFAD Bundesverband der Pflege- und Adoptivfamilien e.V.

Federal Association of Foster and Adoptive Families

Geisbergstr. 16; D-10777 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 9487-9423; Fax: +49 30 4798-5031
E-Mail: info@pfad-bv.de; Internet: www.pfad-bv.de

The Federal Association of Foster and Adoptive Families was founded in Münster in 1976 as an association with nationwide activities. Following the structural reform of 1996, all Länder associations and their affiliated regional associations and initiatives formed the Federal PFAD Association of Foster and Adoptive Families (PFAD-Bundesverband der Pflege- und Adoptivfamilien).

The Federal Association is of the opinion, that children and young people placed in foster or adoptive families are not easier to raise than those living in institutions, and it wants to be a contact point and guardian (pursuant to § 13 SGB X) in crises and conflict situations. It also wants to make a contribution so that as many children as possible are given steady caregivers in adoptive and foster families, when they cannot live in their birth family. PFAD fights for improved co-operation in partnership between public and non-public youth services, works for the improvement and safeguarding of the legal position of foster families, demands the development of and continuous support by schools for foster parents, and carries out preparation and qualification activities. Its additional goals include Social Security for foster parents as volunteers and employees, and a concrete implementation of the legal provisions contained in the Act on Child and Youth Services.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

PFAD has Länder associations in all Federal states. Their addresses are available at www.pfad.de.
pro familia – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Familienplanung, Sexualpädagogik und Sexualberatung e.V.

pro familia – German Association for Family Planning, Sexual Education and Sexual Counselling

Stresemannallee 3; D–60596 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 639002; Fax: +49 69 639852
E-Mail: info@profamilia.de; Internet: www.profamilia.de

The pro familia – German Association for Family Planning, Sexual Education and Sexual Counselling was founded in 1952 and works in the area of family planning, sexual education and sexual counselling. It regards itself as a professional, service and interest group for women, men, young people and children in relation to sexual and reproductive health and associated rights. From its fundamental attitude to sexuality and family planning, pro familia derives its political mission and the resulting representation of the interests of information and advice seekers. pro familia participates in expert discussions, makes its position known in political decision-making processes and issues information material and publications.

Its local counselling centres are integrated into a network of medical and psychosocial facilities. Its counselling centres offer medical, psychological and social advice to women (and their partners) in such fields as partnership, sexuality, contraception and pregnancy. In the pro familia centres and in co-operating family planning centres, it also offers medical treatment. In addition, pro familia is interested in co-operating with groups and initiatives of new social movements (especially in the women's and the health movement). Its sexual education programmes are especially addressed to youth groups and parent groups, teachers, educators, social educators and other professionals. As a result, pro familia provides practical counselling on the qualification of teachers and educators in sexual education, is involved in sexual education projects, participates in sexual education classes in schools and evenings for parents, or it participates in lectures and discussion events.

pro familia’s regular further education and continues education programme as well as its in-service training are addressed to all staff and professionals in the health service and in psychosocial services, who have similar responsibilities.

pro familia is a founding member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the leading international non-governmental family planning organisation with affiliates in more than 150 countries, it is affiliated to the European IPPF Region, is actively involved in IPPF’s strategy and programme development. pro familia is also affiliated to the Paritätische Gesamtverband (Der Paritätische Gesamtverband), the German Working Group for Youth, Marriage and Family Counselling (Deutscher Arbeitskreis für Jugend-, Ehe- und Familienberatung) as well as other associations working in the areas of health, sexuality research and studies as well as social work.

LÄNDER, LOCAL AND COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

PRO FAMILIA is organised on the local, county and Länder levels and operates more than 160 counselling units and centres. Its 36 Länder associations in the Länder form the Federal Association. Contact addresses are available at www.profamilia.de.
Stiftung Leuchtfeuer

Beacon Foundation (Germany)

Riehler Str. 6; D-50668 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 9233993; Fax: +49 221 9233279
E-Mail: info@stiftung-leuchtfeuer.de; Internet: www.stiftung-leuchtfeuer.de

For years, the Beacon Foundation in Germany has been an established partner for many youth offices for finding bespoke solutions for individual cases and complex problematic situations in families. The principles of the Foundation’s work include the credo never to leave young people or families alone or behind in difficult situations. The Foundation’s goal is to show young people with an extremely difficult history ways of escaping their seemingly predetermined fate of social isolation, self-destruction, and delinquency. The Foundation provides intensive care for young people and helps find lasting solutions to their problems, and decides individually for each case which methods are best employed.

The people that work for the Foundation have extensive expert knowledge, which is put to targeted use as required by the case. Projects in three European countries afford children and adolescents an opportunity to gather practical experience in a European context. These experiences can be used for the educational work.

The Foundation is a member of the Federal Association for Adventure Education (Bundesverband Individual- und Erlebnispädagogik).
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Kinderschutz-Zentren e.V.

Federal Association of Child Protection Centres

Bonner Str. 147; D-50968 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 569753; Fax: +49 221 5697550
E-Mail: die@kinderschutz-zentren.org
Internet: www.kinderschutz-zentren.org, www.youngavenue.de

The Federal Association of Child Protection Centres is the umbrella organisation of all child protection centres in the Federal Republic of Germany and was founded in 1980 as an informal association. It was recognized as a non-profit organisation in 1986 and established its federal office in 1993.

The mission of child protection centres is to mitigate the incidence of child neglect, physical and mental and even sexual violence against children - by developing, applying and disseminating special tools addressing the causes of violence.

In its activities, the Federal Association of Child Protection Centres supports the establishment and further development of child protection centres and promotes the problem-specific training and further education of individuals working in psychosocial and medical occupations. It also develops new child protection concepts and implements research projects. The Association also influences public opinion by advocating child protection at the grassroots level and submits suggestions for legislative and executive activities in the field of social and family policy. Another focus is its co-operation with organisations and facilities pursuing identical or similar objectives. The Federal Association of Child Protection Centres enjoys a continuous exchange with its professional rank and file and communicates with politicians, professionals, the media and other associations. It demands a structural improvement of the assistance system, the development of high-quality professional standards for child protection activities, the consolidation of interdisciplinary co-operation, the integration of cutting-edge research for the development and planning of assistance tools as well as the further development of preventive assistance schemes.

Its Internet projects provide support to professionals on practical assistance issues and enable direct contacts and consultation on the Web (www.kinderschutz-zentren.org and www.YoungAvenue.de).

CHILD PROTECTION CENTRES

The contact details of all child protection centres in Germany are available at www.kinderschutz-zentren.org.
Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People

Mühlendamm 3, D-10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 40040-300; Fax: +49 30 40040-333
E-Mail: info@bag-jugendschutz.de; Internet: www.bag-jugendschutz.de

The Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People (BAJ) was founded in 1951 under the name Federal Association ‘Action for Youth Protection’ (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Aktion Jugendschutz). It is an association of national umbrella organisations in the area of public welfare, youth, family and professional associations as well as individuals working for children and young people concerns in the framework of active children and youth protection. On the Federal level, BAJ is a non-partisan and non-denominational representative of the rights of children and young people vis-à-vis the political arena and society.

BAJ considers child and youth protection as an umbrella for all activities which are appropriate for implementing the right of children and young people to education and for creating public awareness for their right to physical, mental and social development.

BAJ organises expert meetings on current and basic matters of child and youth protection, drafts positions and expert opinions. It also prepares and communicates information material and a trade magazine entitled “Child Youth Society” (Kind Jugend Gesellschaft). BAJ enables an exchange of views between its affiliated organisations, expert agencies and the professional community, provides consultancy on legislative proposals on child and youth protection in the framework of hearings, expert discussions and positions, and alerts parents, teachers, businessmen and employers to their duties regarding children and young people. BAJ manages a professional archive on child and youth protection issues which is available online at www.bag-jugendschutz.de.

Its most important working areas with respect to child and youth protection include: addiction risks due to alcohol, nicotine and drug abuse and drug consumption, as well as the resulting damage and secondary effects; media-related risks which affect the development of a young person's personality, when they glorify violence and war for example, or contain pornographic images; acts of violence against children and young people, sexual abuse and child neglect; issues of youth crime and its impact on the psychosocial development of children and young people; risks resulting from religious sects and movements insofar as they aim to change a young person's awareness and may therefore create dependency; risks which may be the result of a socially harmful and unhealthy ergonomic workplace design; general social problems of children and young people in coping with their lives, as well as assistance for orientation.
MEMBERS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF VOLUNTARY WELFARE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

- Arbeiterwohlfahrt – Bundesverband e.V.
- Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.
- Der Paritätische Gesamtverband e.V.
- Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.
- Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e.V.

OTHER MEMBERS

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Gefährdungshilfe und Jugendenschutz in der Erzdiözese Freiburg e.V.
Oberaur 21, D–79102 Freiburg i.Br.
Tel. 49 761 2180745, Fax 49 761 286352,
Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitsgeberverbände
Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft,
Breite Str. 29, D–10178 Berlin,
Tel. 49 30 2033–0, Fax 49 30 2033–1055,
info@bda-online.de, www.bda-online.de

- Deutsche Sportjugend im Deutschen Olympischen Sportbund (DOSB) e.V.
- Deutsche Verkehrswacht e.V.
- Deutscher Berufsverband für Soziale Arbeit e.V.
- Deutscher Frauenring e.V.
- Deutscher Evang. Frauenbund e.V.

Verband Bildung und Erziehung
Behrenstr. 23/24, D–10117 Berlin,
Tel. +49 30 7261966–0, Fax +49 30 7261966–19,
bundesverband@vbe.de, www.vbe.de

Verein katholischer deutscher Lehrerinnen e.V.
Bundesgeschäftsstelle,
Hedwig-Dransfeld-Platz 4, D–45143 Essen,
Tel. 49 201 623029, Fax 49 201 621587,
info@vkdl.de, www.vkdl.de

Weisses Kreuz e.V.
Weisses-Kreuz-Str 1–4, D–34292 Ahnatal/Kassel,
Tel. +49 5609 8399–0, Fax +49 5609 8399–22,
kontakt@weisses-kreuz.de,
www.weisses-kreuz.de

LANDER OFFICES / LÄNDER WORKING PARTIES

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG
Aktion Jugendschutz Landesarbeitsstelle Baden-Württemberg
Jahnistr. 12, D–70597 Stuttgart,
Tel. 49 711 237370, Fax 49 711 2373730,
info@ajs-bw.de, www.ajs-bw.de

BAVARIAN
Aktion Jugendschutz Landesarbeitsstelle Bayern e.V.
Fasanenstr. 17, D–80366 München,
Tel. 49 89 121757–0, Fax 49 89 121757–99,
info@aj-bayern.de, www.bayern.jugendschutz.de

BERLIN
Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz Berlin e.V.
c/o Kinder- und Jugendhaus Marzahn,
Clambecker Ring 80–82, D–12679 Berlin,
Tel. 49 30 9393910,
lag-berlin@t-online.de,
www.jeder-ist-anders-berlin.de

BRANDENBURG
Aktion Kinder- und Jugendschutz Landesarbeitsstelle Brandenburg e.V.
Brander Str. 7 A, D–14467 Potsdam,
Tel. 49 331 95131–70, Fax 49 331 95131–72,
ajs-brandenburg@t-online.de,
www.jugendschutz-brandenburg.de

HAMBURG
Arbeitgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz Hamburg e.V.
Hellkamp 68/Clasenstr. D–20555 Hamburg,
Tel. 49 40 40172212, Fax 49 40 40172292,
ajs.hh@t-online.de,
www.jugendschutz-hamburg.de
LOWER SAXONY
Landesstelle Jugendschutz Niedersachsen
Leisewitzstr. 26, D-30175 Hannover,
Tel. +49 511 858788 und 853061,
Fax +49 511 2834954,
info@jugendschutz-niedersachsen.de,
www.jugendschutz-niedersachsen.de

NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz
Landesstelle Nordrhein-Westfalen e.V.
Poststr. 15–23, D-50676 Köln,
Tel. +49 221 921392-0, Fax +49 221 921392-20,
info@mail.ajs.nrw.de, www.ajs.nrw.de
Evangelischer Arbeitskreis für Kinder- und Jugendschutz
Nordrhein-Westfalen (Geschäftsstelle: Diakonisches Werk Westfalen)
Friesenring 32–34, D-48147 Münster,
Tel. +49 251 2709-390, –391, Fax +49 251 2709-302,
winde@dw-westfalen.de
Katholische Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz NW e.V.
Salzstr. 8, D-48143 Münster,
Tel. +49 251 54027 und 40142, Fax +49 251 538609,
kath.lag.jugendschutz.nw@t-online.de,
www.nrw-kath-jugendschutz.de

SAXONY
Aktion Jugendschutz Sachsen e.V. – Landesarbeitsstelle
Lingner Allee 3, D-01069 Dresden,
Tel. +49 351 4848690,
ajssachsen-vw@jugendschutz-sachsen.de,
www.jugendschutz-sachsen.de

SAXONY-ANHALT
Sachsen-Anhalt
Landesstelle Kinder- und Jugendschutz
Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.
Freiligrathstr. 11, D-39108 Magdeburg,
Tel. +49 391 7346246, Fax +49 391 7346247,
jugendschutz@jugend-lsa.de,
www.jugend-lsa.de/jugendschutz

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN
Aktion Kinder- und Jugendschutz Landesarbeitsstelle
Schleswig-Holstein e.V.
Feldstr. 120, D–24105 Kiel,
Tel. +49 431 89077 und 89078, Fax +49 431 89079,
info@akjs-sh.de, www.akjs-sh.de

THURINGIA
Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz
Thüringen e.V.
Johannesstr. 19, D–99084 Erfurt,
Tel. +49 361 6442264, Fax +49 361 6442265,
jugendschutz.thueringen@t-online.de,
www.jugendschutz-thueringen.de

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS / CO-OPERATIONS
Information on associate members and other cooperation partners is available on the BAJ website (www.baj-jugendschutz.de).
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mehr Sicherheit für Kinder e.V.

Safe Kids Germany

Heilsbachstr. 13; D-53123 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 68834-0; Fax: +49 228 68834-88
E-Mail: info@kindersicherheit.de; Internet: www.kindersicherheit.de

The goal of the Safe Kids Germany organisation is to raise public awareness for child safety, and to try to protect the 11.8 million children in Germany from accidents. This non-profit organisation was founded in 2002, as the successor of the former National Working Group Child Safety (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kindersicherheit).

The objectives of Safe Kids Germany are to promote public interest in problems and actions related to child safety, to coordinate and cross-link relevant initiatives and projects, to facilitate exchange of knowledge and co-operation between associations, organisations and initiatives at the national and international level, to carry out campaigns and measures for the improvement of child safety and to inform the broader public on accident-related issues within the framework of the annual Child Safety Day.

In respect of financing, the association relies on the strategy of a “public-private partnership”, i.e. support from private sponsors in combination with public funding. As a result, the range of members is very broad, including associations and groups in the medical profession, emergency services, traffic safety bodies, technical service providers, organisations focused on promoting health, parents’ initiatives and children’s aid organisations as well as concerned private individuals.

MEMBERS

A list of Safe Kids Germany’s members and partners can be found on the Website at www.kindersicherheit.de under “Profile”.

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Bundesverein zur Prävention von sexuellem Missbrauch an Jungen und Mädchen e.V.

Federal Association for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Boys and Girls

Steenbeker Weg 151; D-24106 Kiel
Tel.: +49 431 8888–061; Fax: +49 431 8888–045
E-Mail: mail@bundesverein.de; Internet: www.bundesverein.de

The Federal Association for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Boys and Girls was founded in 1998. It is a nationwide association of men and women that work in institutions or non-profit organisations, or as individuals, to prevent sexual harassment and abuse of girls and boys. The areas they work in are: education and training, parent education, gender-specific youth work for girls and boys, police prevention programmes, youth welfare services, intervention, counselling and therapy, and research and development.

The Federal Association’s target is to provide information on the prevention of sexual abuse to interested experts and parents and explain the steps and measures that can be taken against sexual abuse and to make girls and boys stronger and less prone to abuse. The Federal Association works at an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional level, aiming to form as broad an alliance as possible against the sexual abuse of girls and boys. Through its national assemblies, that take place every six months, and its bimonthly magazine “prevention” (prevention), it also offers its members a forum for networking and exchange. Moreover, members of the Federal Association take part in the public (expert) discourse, organise events that focus on the topic of preventing sexual abuse, and take a stance in the political and specialist discussions. There is a regular exchange on the practical approaches in member organisations and of the materials and publications they issue during the national meetings. The Federal Association also supports the Federal government’s campaign on non-violent education.
Deutsche Gesellschaft gegen Kindesmisshandlung und -vernachlässigung e.V.

German Society against Child Abuse and Neglect

Königsweg 9; D–24103 Kiel
Tel.: +49 431 671284; Fax: +49 431 674943
E-Mail: info@dggkv.de; Internet: www.dggkv.de

The German Society against Child Abuse and Neglect (DGgKV) was established in 1994 in the aim of providing a forum for members of all groups of professionals, who are responsible for activities for victims of all forms of child abuse, sexual exploitation and neglect and who work with victimised girls and boys and their families. These groups include professionals from all areas of social work, the police, the judiciary, legal aid and parole services, medical services, therapy and counselling, work in homes and preschool education, day-care centres for children as well as child and youth services.

DGgKV considers itself as an amalgamation of professionals for professionals, and its objective is to develop activities for the protection of abused children as a multi-professional discipline. In this context, it wants to promote a sustainable exchange of information and mutual professional support. DGgKV maintains contacts to numerous international organisations sharing the same objectives and is a national affiliate of ISPCAN (International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect). In its quarterly information service, the association offers its members professional information, current news, conference reports etc. Furthermore, DGgKV publishes the bi-annual interdisciplinary magazine “Child Abuse and Neglect” (Kindesmisshandlung und -vernachlässigung), which documents scientific papers on child protection from Germany and abroad. DGgKV’s programme also includes further education programmes for teachers and therapists. Every second year, it organises a national multi-disciplinary expert conference, where it addresses current problems of child and youth protection.

REGIONAL GROUPS
DGgKV’s five regional groups may be contacted at www.dggkv.de.
German Association for the Prevention of Road Accidents

Alexanderstr. 10; D-53111 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 43380-0; Fax: +49 228 43380-70
E-Mail: dvw@dvw-ev.de; Internet: www.dvw-ev.de

The German Association for the Prevention of Road Accidents (DVW) was founded as a non-profit organisation in 1924. Ever since, its principal road safety duties have included road safety training and road safety information. Following a DVW initiative and with funding from the Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung) or industrial partners, DVW has developed and will design numerous programmes and actions covering a wide range of road safety aspects.

Its “move it” campaign, its programmes for road safety training in schools, its out-of-school programme for cyclists “Bicycles are the Trend (Fahrrad im Trend)”, its “training-workshop.de (www.lernwerkstadt.de)” initiative, its school crossings patrols, the “Young drivers (Junge Fahrer)” campaign and its vehicle lights test are just a few examples for DVW’s targeted and long-standing activities for road safety.

Every day, approx. 90,000 DVW volunteers in 630 local, district and county groups – which are themselves organised in 16 Länder accident prevention associations – contribute to raising the public awareness for road safety as an issue. These volunteers are active, committed and successful assistants in promoting road safety for children, young people, adults and senior citizens. They visit kindergartens, schools, senior citizens’ homes and other institutions to draw people’s attention to the numerous programmes on the subject and to provide practical, “on-site” road safety training.
Informationszentrum Kindesmisshandlung/
Kindervernachlässigung (IzKK)

Information Centre Child Abuse and Neglect

Deutsches Jugendinstitut
Nockherstr. 2; D-81541 München
Tel.: +49 89 62306–229; Fax: +49 89 62306–162
E-Mail: izkk@dji.de; Internet: www.dji.de/izkk/

The Information Centre Child Abuse and Neglect (IzKK) is a nationwide, interdisciplinary information, counselling and network centre for the support of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of child abuse and child neglect. As a national and international interface of research, practice and politics, it promotes the transparency and productive co-operation between various disciplines.

IzKK develops varied information and mutually combines important practical experience and research results. With the goal of a needs-oriented further development of prevention work for the protection of children against violence, it triggers innovative approaches for action that are based on comprehensive interdisciplinary findings. It supports qualified practical work and stimulates practically relevant research approaches.

Since its start of 2002, the Information Centre has been part of the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut) and is financed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend).

Its activities are targeted at all groups of people and professions that directly or indirectly contribute to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It can be used free-of-charge.
N. I. N. A. Nationale Infoline, Netzwerk und Anlaufstelle zu sexueller Gewalt an Mädchen und Jungen

N. I. N. A National Information Hotline, Network, and Contact Point for Sexual Violence against Girls and Boys

Steenbeker Weg 151; D-24106 Kiel
E-Mail: mail@nina-info.de; Internet: www.nina-info.de

N. I. N. A. – the National Information Hotline, Network, and Contact Point for Sexual Violence against Girls and Boys – is primarily a telephone helpline (+49 1805 1234 65) for issues of sexual violence against girls and boys. N. I. N. A. provides help to parents, relatives, teachers, child and youth workers, or any other adult that needs fast and uncomplicated support and assistance in recognising sexual violence and helping affected girls and boys. Information and support are also given by email. A website on prevention and sexual violence contains information for people who are in a close relationship with the victims (or the victims themselves) as well as for experts. The N. I. N. A. team consists of psychologists and educationalists.

N. I. N. A. offers advice and support for adults who have observed that a girl or boy is at risk for sexual violence, provides information and support if a case of sexual violence is suspected, and provides information on advisory and help services in Germany, as well as information on literature or (working) materials on educational advertising, prevention, and intervention, and qualified and comprehensive information on the topic of sexual violence, on providers of prevention projects, and how to gain access to these.

N. I. N. A. is an initiative of the Federal Association for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Girls and Boys (Bundesverein zur Prävention von sexuellem Missbrauch an Mädchen und Jungen).
Stiftung “Bündnis für Kinder – gegen Gewalt”

Foundation “Alliance for Children – Against Violence”

Winzererstr. 9, D-80797 München
Tel.: +49 89 1261–1263, –1200; Fax: +49 89 1261–1625
E-Mail: info@buendnis-fuer-kinder.de; Internet: www.buendnis-fuer-kinder.de

“Alliance for Children – Against Violence” was founded on 1 March 2001 as part of the Bavarian Child Protection Conference in Munich. The Foundation wants to make a contribution to a violence-free development of young people in a child-friendly society. The aim is to protect children against maltreatment, abuse and neglect.

Alliance for Children supports projects in Germany that prevent violence against children from the outset. These include projects that help to strengthen the personality of children and projects that teach them empathy and violence-free conflict resolution strategies from an early age.

As violence can rapidly develop due to the parents’ uncertainty and excessive burden, Alliance for Children supports programmes to strengthen parental responsibility. In its prevention efforts, the Foundation wants to contribute to parents being provided with possibilities for conflict resolution at an early stage and being able to develop a reliable and loving parent-child relationship with balanced concepts.
Stiftung Hänsel und Gretel

Hänsel and Gretel Foundation

Veilchenstr. 23; D–76131 Karlsruhe
Tel.: +49 721 94319–22; Fax: +49 721 94319–24
E-Mail: info@haensel-gretel.de; Internet: www.haensel-gretel.de

The objective of the Foundation is promoting youth services and family services in the area of youth welfare as well as support for abused children and young persons and their families. The Foundation sponsors and initiates projects, which are intended to prevent child abuse and to provide direct and follow-up care to children, who are victims of abuse, or care/follow-up to family members of such children. Its projects may be awareness campaigns, films, radio shows, TV shows, plays, charity events, concerts or similar activities. The Foundation provides funding to abused children and/or their parents.
**10.4 CHILDREN’S WELL-BEING, CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND INTERESTS**

“Macht Kinder stark für Demokratie!” e.V.

"Make Children Strong for Democracy!"

**c/o KiKo**

Löwenhof – Haus B, Löwengasse 27; D-60385 Frankfurt/Main

Tel.: +49 69 463081-66

E-Mail: info@makista.de

Internet: www.makista.de; www.kuenstler-fuer-kinderrechte.de

The association “Make Children Strong for Democracy” – Makista for short – is a group of people who have for many years been working for democracy with children and for children’s rights. They come from various fields of society, such as the media, economy, educational institutions, administration and children’s rights organisations. Makista is recognized as a non-partisan, non-profit association. Makista wants to contribute to children experiencing and learning respect and democracy from an early age. In this way, they learn to respect others and be responsible in society.

Makista would like to help to generate clarity and a sense of guidance in children’s rights. The association supports the exchange of experiences, organises conferences and workshops and devises online offers for pupils, parents and teachers.

Makista is a network of people, who have for many years been working for children’s rights as they are defined in the worldwide UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989. Participation of children and young people in all matters that affect them is a principal aim of the Convention. The association co-operates with other associations and organisations acting as lobbyists for children to make important contributions to the realisation of children’s rights and the teaching of democracy: German Committee for UNICEF (➡ Deutsches Komitee für UNICEF), German Society for the Protection of Children Frankfurt (Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Frankfurt), National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany (➡ National Coalition für die Umsetzung der UN-Kinderrechtskonvention in Deutschland), the Frankfurt Children’s Agency (Frankfurter Kinderbüro), the initiative Show your True Colours! Action for a Cosmopolitan Germany (➡ Gesicht Zeigen! Aktion welt-offenes Deutschland) and others.
CHILDREN FOR A BETTER WORLD e.V.

Nikolaistr. 7 RGB; D-80802 München
Tel.: +49 98 3243609; Fax: +49 89 32450248
E-Mail: info@children.de; Internet: www.children.de

CHILDREN FOR A BETTER WORLD was founded as a non-profit child relief organisation in 1994 and promotes and supports children and young people, who experience special emergencies because of their material, physical, mental or psychological condition.

The association sponsors projects in Germany and abroad, which improve the life of children and young people in trouble and give them an opportunity to take responsibility for their own lives. As a result, the range of projects sponsored by the association is very wide: children's hospices, school-like education for unaccompanied refugees below the age of maturity, support for children and youth houses, recreational activities for children and young people with mental disabilities, educational and therapeutic care for children and young people as well as international projects for homeless children and orphans are just a few examples.

Another focus of the association's activities is to motivate children and young people to show social commitment and to offer practical support for such activities. Through so-called Children's Advisory Boards, they are directly involved in the financial decision-making, and the Youth helps! (Jugend hilft!) Contest and Fund offers financial support to projects run by young people (for further information, please go to www.jugend-hilft.de).
Deutsche Gesellschaft für das hochbegabte Kind e. V.

German Society for Highly Gifted Children

Schillerstr. 4–5; D–10625 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 34356829; Fax: +49 30 34356925
E-Mail: dghk@dghk.de; Internet: www.dghk.de

A German Society for Highly Gifted Children (DGhK) is a nationally active non-profit association with parents, teachers, psychologists and other interested individuals working as volunteers for the assistance of highly gifted children. DGhK was founded by scientists and teachers in 1978. Its concrete starting point was the case of a highly gifted secondary school student failing in school. Highly gifted children require special support, as their high intelligence does not automatically lead to outstanding achievements and a satisfying life. Meanwhile, approx. 6,000 members and approx. 10,000 children from all walks of life are affiliated to the association.

The association’s objective is to assist highly gifted children and young persons. In its charter it states: “Our assistance to highly gifted children shall enable them to strengthen their individuality irrespective of their origins and individual goals and to integrate them into society as psychologically stable individuals who are committed to their special tasks and responsibilities in society.” In this context, the association provides counselling to highly gifted children, their parents and all their contacts in education or schools. It promotes local meetings and discussion groups for parents and provides remedial courses for highly gifted children, represents the interests of highly gifted individuals vis-à-vis schools and education authorities and is active in public relations activities. The association issues its own magazine. DGhK has a nationwide organisation with regional associations.
Deutsche Liga für das Kind in Familie und Gesellschaft  
(Initiative gegen frühkindliche Deprivation) e.V.

German League for the Child in Family and Society  
(Initiative Against Deprivation in Early Childhood)

Charlottenstr. 65; D–10117 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 30 285999–70; Fax: +49 30 285999–71  
E-Mail: post@liga-kind.de; Internet: www.liga-kind.de

The German League for the Child in Family and Society – Initiative Against Deprivation in Early Childhood – was founded in 1977 as an interdisciplinary organisation of numerous associations and organisations from the field of early childhood. The League aims to promote the mental health of children and improve their rights and development opportunities in all fields of life.

Its affiliated organisations include scientific societies, paediatric and psychological associations, family and youth associations and numerous service clubs.

The League provides information on the significance of early childhood and the parent-child relationship. It campaigns for the recognition of social parenthood and for the quality of institutions outside of the family. The League promotes scientific studies on influences in early childhood development and campaigns for the improvement of political and societal conditions. It actively influences legislative measures. Experts from the fields of health, education, social sciences and law work together in the League and enable intensive contacts to science, practice and politics.

As the association is a recognized expert, political decision-makers listen to what it has to say and it is, among other things, a member of the National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany (National Coalition für die Umsetzung ...), the Federal Forum of the Family (Bundesforum Familie) and the “World Association for Infant Mental Health” (WAIMH).

The League’s publications include an interdisciplinary specialist magazine on mental health matters of infants and small children, “Early Childhood”, which is published every two months and is also available on the Internet. It contains a list of recommendations (compilation of selected films from the fields of birth and birth preparation, breastfeeding and nutrition, development, particular stress situations, day care and education, children’s rights). A newsletter is published weekly as an email and can be read on www.liga-kind.de.

Furthermore, the League has developed the education project “Kindergarten plus”, a nationally implemented programme to promote the social and emotional abilities of 4-to-5-year-old children in children’s day care centres.

MEMBERS

NATIONALLY ACTIVE MEMBERS FROM THE FIELD OF CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE, CHILD AND YOUTH POLITICS

▶ Aktionskomitee KIND IM KRANKENHAUS Bundesverband e.V.  
▶ Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Kinderschutz-Zentren e.V.  
▶ Bundesverband behinderter Pflegekinder e.V.  
▶ Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Bundesverband e.V.  
▶ Kolpingjugend im Kolpingwerk Deutschland  
▶ Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie

▶ PFAD Bundesverband für Pflege- und Adoptivfamilien e.V.  
▶ Verband Anwalt des Kindes (Bundesverband) e.V.

OTHER MEMBERS

Other affiliated member organisations of the German League for the Child can be found on their website at http://liga-kind.de/mitglieder/mitglieder.php.
Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Bundesverband e. V.

German Society for the Protection of Children

Hinüberstr. 8; D-30175 Hannover
Tel.: +49 511 30485-0; Fax: +49 511 30485-49
E-Mail: info@dksb.de; Internet: www.kinderschutzbund.de

The German Society for the Protection of Children (DKSB) was founded in 1953. It is the society for children with the highest membership in Germany; approximately 50,000 people participate in its activities. It is structured in 16 Länder associations and more than 420 local and county associations.

DKSB is committed to improving the living situation of children and tries to counteract their increasingly restricted perspectives for the future. In 1992, it adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as an element of its statutes and the basis for all its activities. On the Federal, Länder and local levels, it works for making the children's rights enshrined in this convention a reality in their everyday life. In its practical and sociopolitical activities, DKSB introduces the issue of increasing poverty in the public debate and urgently demands sufficient compensation payments for bringing up children. In its local associations, it offers practical support to children from poor families and thus prevents their social marginalisation. In order to enable children to develop, it offers exciting recreational activities and school assistance. The German Society for the Protection of Children also fights for a multifaceted children's culture.

Another focus of its work is on realising the right to non-violent education. In this context, DKSB offers counselling and provides support to children and families. Its project “Strong parents – Strong children” was developed in this context. It includes courses, which help parents to raise their children in non-violence. Another DKSB project is the parents’ hotline, while free children and youth hotlines have been available to children and young people for many years.

In order to give a higher political and social priority to the interests and concerns of children and their families, the German Society for the Protection of Children demands the appointment of Commissioners for Children in local, Länder and Federal governments. It also supports children's interest groups such as children's offices and children's parliaments. The DKSB Federal Association works as a lobbyist for children, develops demands and perspectives for child policies. It represents the interests of children and families vis-à-vis politicians and the administration and is active in associated public relations work.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS / LOCAL AND COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

DKSB is represented nationwide through its Länder associations. It is also active in more than 420 local and county associations. Contact addresses are available at www.kinderschutzbund.de.
Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk e. V.

Children’s Charity of Germany

Leipziger Str. 116–118; D–10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 308693–0; Fax: +49 30 2795634
E-Mail: dkhw@dkhw.de; Internet: www.dkhw.de

The Children’s Charity of Germany (DKHW) is a free, non-profit organisation with nationwide activities, which, since its foundation in 1972, has advocated the respect and consideration for children’s concerns, the creation of the best possible conditions for their development, children- and family-friendly environments and the participation of children in all community matters of their concern. DKHW’s activities focus on child policies, lobbying etc., and it organises nationwide activities on World Children’s Day, supports play rooms, works with the media and fights child poverty in Germany. DKHW has more than 10,000 sponsoring members, 800 local authorities and approximately 220 autonomous associations/organisations are affiliated to DKHW.
Deutsches Komitee für UNICEF e.V.

German Committee for UNICEF

Höninger Weg 104; D-50969 Köln
Tel.: +49 221 93650-0; Fax: +49 221 93650-279
E-Mail: mail@unicef.de; Internet: www.unicef.de

UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) is the child welfare agency of the United Nations. The German Committee for UNICEF was established in 1953 and is one of 37 national committees in the industrialised countries.

The mission of the German Committee for UNICEF includes information to the public about UNICEF’s activities and programmes and the provision of funding for these projects by selling UNICEF postcards and collecting donations. Furthermore, the German Committee for UNICEF wants to raise the public’s awareness for the basic rights of all children.

UNICEF works on the basis of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which obligates all states to protect the survival of children, to promote their development, to protect them against abuse and violence, and to involve them in important decisions. UNICEF considers itself as an advocate of the children and pursues lobbying activities with decision-makers in politics, business and culture, in the general public, at schools, in local communities and associations. In its efforts, the Committee is supported by more than 130 local working groups from the entire Federal Republic of Germany and more than 8,000 volunteers.
ECPAT Deutschland e. V. – Arbeitsgemeinschaft zum Schutz der Kinder vor sexueller Ausbeutung

ECPAT Germany – Federal Association for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation

Alfred-Döblin-Platz 1; D-79100 Freiburg
Tel.: +49 761 45687–148; Fax: +49 761 45687–149
E-Mail: info@ecpat.de; Internet: www.ecpat.de

ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking) is an international children’s rights organisation with headquarters in Thailand. Its mission is to create public awareness for and to fight against child pornography, child prostitution and child trafficking in all regions of the world. The organisation fights for the respect of children’s rights as they are enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. More than 300 organisations, groups and individuals in 50 countries are affiliated to the international network.

28 organisations are affiliated to ECPAT Germany – the Federal Association for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation. The Association is committed to a comprehensive and consistent rehabilitation of victimized children and the prosecution of offenders, and demands that companies and media make a pledge to a code of conduct. ECPAT Germany wants to establish a dialogue with the travel sector, offers education courses for employees in the tourism sector and develops awareness programmes. The Association addresses issues such as the prosecution of offenders and wants to facilitate international co-operation through international legal and judicial assistance agreements, for example. Since 1993, there is a possibility of trying Germans, who have sexually abused children abroad, also in a German court of law. ECPAT addresses the growing problem of child prostitution and pornography, fight child trafficking and supports the young victims. Together with representatives of the judiciary, politicians and the private sector, ECPAT explores the possibilities for prosecuting offences involving the production, ownership and dissemination of child pornography.

The ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ban of exploitative child labour enshrined in Convention No. 182 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are important principles for ECPAT in view of protecting children against sexual exploitation and thus of the National Action Plan.

The activities of ECPAT Germany are sponsored by the Episcopal Social Service Agency Misereor (Bischöfliches Hilfswerk Misereor e. V.), the Protestant Development Service of the Protestant Church in Germany (Kirchlicher Entwicklungsdienst der Evang. Kirche in Deutschland, ABP), the Catholic Fund for Education and Public Relations (Katholischer Fonds für Bildung und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit), the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) and the EU Commission.
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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY

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The Initiative for Big Children is a group of educational and development researchers, social and sports scientists, paediatricians, school governors, employees in child and youth welfare, teachers, educators, parents, psychologists, therapists, town developers, representatives of institutions and associations – men and women who have come together to raise the awareness of responsible adults in family, school and society for the needs of children between pre-school and youth age.

The Initiative is based on the voluntary and non-obligatory involvement of its participants. The personal contact among members is key to develop ideas and specific possible solutions for the participants’ respective fields of activity and their co-operation.

The various perspectives and experiences of the participants in the Initiative enable a more comprehensive view of the situation of “Big Children” that facilitates a clear recognition to what extent and at which points their basic life requirements in family, free time, school and town planning are taken into account or disregarded in society.

The acquired findings should result in concrete initiatives, suggestions, information and research projects with the aim of creating a spatial, temporal and social life basis for children between 6 and 14 as it is needed for their age-related healthy physical, mental, spiritual and social development.
Mehr Zeit für Kinder e. V.

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The association ‘More Time for Children’ (MZFk) aims at encouraging and promoting child-friendly forms of behaviour in everyday life. In order to realise its objectives, the association cooperates with scientists from various disciplines, politicians, local authorities, youth offices, teachers, initiatives and companies. At the core of its activities are events designed for an active participation of children and adults so that they may spend some happy hours together playing and having fun. With this objective in mind, MZFk organises programmes for families at trade fairs and Länder anniversaries, where such events are organised around a thematic focus and playfully promote the children's awareness of societal issues.

MZFk’s activities also include the support for science and research, education and training, the development of publications on topics of relevance for children and families and/or suggestions for common activities of parents and children in their leisure time. For this purpose, the Frankfurt-based association co-operates with scientists and renowned professionals in these fields.

MZFk wants to create public awareness for the significance of the parents’ affectionate behaviour towards their children and runs a nationwide poster campaign, which draws attention to various aspects of children’s needs. Together with the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) and the Association for Outdoor Advertising (Fachverband Außenwerbung), MZFk already alerted the public’s attention to the challenges, which today’s parents have to confront.
National Coalition für die Umsetzung der UN-Kinderrechtskonvention in Deutschland

National Coalition for the Implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany

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The National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany (NC) was formally founded in 1995 and is a union of around 100 nationally active organisations and initiatives that have set themselves the goal of publicising the National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany and promoting its implementation. It operates under the patronage of the Vice-President of the German Bundestag.

The NC campaigns for the interests and needs of all young people up to the age of 18 in terms of the directives from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that are to be implemented for Germany. It focuses on topics in line with its goals and tasks and states its views on these to the political arena and the public.

Its goals and tasks particularly include the critical commentary on the necessary reporting of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UN, as prescribed in Article 44 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany, as well as promoting the analysis of the reporting in the government, the Länder and municipalities, organising a broad specialist dialogue on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany in various sectors of society, supporting forms of direct participation of children and young people in the discussion on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany, promoting international exchange on its implementation for organisations in the Federal Republic of Germany and maintaining contacts with the “International Coalition” of NGOs in Geneva.

The National Coalition has defined ten fields of action for the period from 1999 to 2009, in which it ascertained Germany’s urgent need for action. These are: anchoring children’s rights in the Constitution; implementing the priority of child welfare; ensuring children’s participation rights; establishing child-friendly living conditions; ensuring material, health and social existence; eradicating discrimination against children without a German passport; preventing violence and neglect; supporting children with disabilities; protecting children from child imprisonment; respect for children. Furthermore, it is involved in devising a national plan of action on the basis of the document entitled “A World Fit for Children”, which was passed in May in New York.

In order to promote the discussion process and devise positions, the NC holds specialist conferences at regular intervals. The legal entity of the NC and the coordination centre is the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ), which will provide further information and publication lists on request.
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kontakt@vamv-bundesverband.de,
www.vamv.de

▶ Verband Anwalt des Kindes (Bundesverband) e.V.
Verband binationaler Familien und Partnerschaften, iaf e.V.
Bundesgeschäftsstelle,
Ludolfusstr. 2–4, D–60487 Frankfurt/Main,
Tel. +49 69 7137560,
info@verband-binationaler.de,
www.verband-binationaler.de

Verband Sonderpädagogik e.V.
Ohmstr. 7, D–97076 Würzburg,
Tel. +49 931 24020,
post@verband-sonderpaedagogik.de,
www.verband-sonderpaedagogik.de

WORLD VISION Deutschland e.V.
Am Houiller Platz 4, D–61381 Friedrichsdorf,
Tel. +49 6172 763–0,
info@worldvision.de, www.worldvision.de
The Pestalozzi-Fröbel Association (pfv) was founded in 1873 as the German Fröbel Association (Deutscher-Fröbel-Verband) and, following its voluntary dissolution in 1938, it was re-established as Pestalozzi-Fröbel Association in 1948. It is a non-partisan and non-denominational expert association for social education and considers itself as a forum, which addresses the life situations of children and families.

Its objective is to provide an impetus for action to responsible individuals in education and politics so that the life situation of children will be improved. The focus of its activities is on improving the quality of life, education and child raising as well as the situation for younger children in all areas of society and especially in families and public institutions such as kindergartens and day-care centres for children, creches, after-school day care centres, homes and schools. Pfv's members cover the entire range of professional specialisations and thus enable an expert culture, in which discussions on children policies and social education are possible irrespective of specific interests and structures. This dialogue takes place at Federal congresses, expert conferences and discussion groups, to which pfv invites its members and interested expert groups.

Expert conferences are documented in its own series of books, the “Year Books” (Jahrbücher). With its newsletter for affiliates and its Web page, it makes available current information and important documents such as Acts of Parliament, project reports etc. The pfv archives document the history of the Fröbel movement in Germany and abroad after 1826 and are available to interested researchers for expert studies.
Verband Anwalt des Kindes (Bundesverband) e. V.

Association ‘A Child’s Lawyer’ (Federal Association)

Pappelallee 44; D-14469 Potsdam
Tel.: +49 331 7400721; Fax: +49 331 7400722
E-Mail: kontakt@v-a-k.de; Internet: www.v-a-k.de

Since 1983, the Association has been nationally campaigning for the interests of children being appropriately taken into account and represented in legal and official proceedings and in legislation. A paramount aim is particularly to strengthen the legal position of children by legislative and socio-political measures as well as strengthening the position of the “child’s lawyer” by a specific legislative revision of his or her tasks is. The Association ‘A Child’s Lawyer’ is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent association. It consists of family judges, lawyers, educators, psychologists, social workers, several non-profit associations that pursue the goal of child protection as well as being ‘A Child’s Lawyer’.

The Association offers qualified continuing education, counselling and support during and after family court proceedings.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

10.5 (DAY) CARE FOR CHILDREN

Aktionskomitee KIND IM KRANKENHAUS Bundesverband e. V.

Action Committee Child in the Hospital Federal Association

Theobald-Christ-Str. 10; D–60316 Frankfurt
Tel.: +49 180 5254–528; Fax: +49 180 5254–539
E-Mail: info@akik.de; Internet: www.akik.de

The Action Committee Child in the Hospital Federal Association (AKIK) is an association, whose aim is to contribute to the well-being of children in hospital and to create the pre-requisites for all forms of support so that children are protected against psychological damage and so that contacts between the parents and their child are assured from birth. AKIK is an advocate of children’s rights in hospitals, as they are described in the “Charter for children in hospital” (EACH CHARTER, Leiden 1988).

Based on its experience of how children experience and come to terms with hospitalisation and illness, AKIK fights for – among others -the following demands: unlimited presence for parents of all children in hospital; visiting opportunities for siblings and friends; appropriate hospital architecture for children including the provision for rooms to accommodate parents; respect for the child’s personality and individual development through treatment provided by professionals in paediatrics, child psychology and education.

The association’s mission is pursued especially by lobbing the statutory bodies responsible for the treatment and care of sick children, by meetings with medical and nursing services, further training as well as public relations activities and meetings with parents in preparation for a hospital stay.

MEMBERS

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Allergiekrankes Kind
Geschäftsstelle,
Nassaustr. 32, D–35745 Herborn,
Tel. +49 2772 9287–0, Fax +49 2772 9287–48,
aak-team@aak.de, www.aak.de

Arbeitskreis Neue Erziehung e.V.

Bundesverband Herzkranke Kinder e.V.
Kasinostr. 84, D–52070 Aachen,
Tel. +49 241 912332, Fax +49 241 912333,
info@herzkranke-kinder-bvhk.de,
www.herzkranke-kinder-bvhk.de

Elternkreis Rheumakranke Kinder
Husarenstr. 70, D–38102 Hannover
Bundesverband für Kindertagespflege e.V.
Bildung. Erziehung. Betreuung

Federal Association for Child Day Care. Education. Upbringing. Support

Moerserstr. 25; D-47798 Krefeld
Tel.: +49 2151 1541590; Fax: +49 2151 1541591
E-Mail: tagesmuetterbv@t-online.de
Internet: www.tagesmuetter-bundesverband.de

The Federal Association for Child Day Care (previously: Childminders Federal Association for Child Day Care/Tagesmütter Bundesverband für Kinderbetreuung in Tagespflege) is a specialist association and supports the qualitative development of day care for children.

As a politically and denominationally neutral federal association, it supports the rights of children to the promotion of their development into independent citizens who are capable of living in a community. The Association's focal point of action is the welfare of the child in all forms of day care for children as well as the recognition of equality with other forms of day care for children. This is based on the Child and Youth Services Act (Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz).

The primary goals of the Association are the further improvement of the quality standards in day care for children, the implementation of their equal legal status with children's day care facilities and the assurance of nationally uniform general conditions. This requires higher investments in the expansion of specialist consulting, the qualification of day care professionals and a performance-oriented payment of the day care providers. Child care in day care is not a cheap offer to satisfy the care needs in Germany.

Together with its affiliated organisations, the Federal Association has devised numerous improvement proposals, qualification concepts, information brochures and demands. Holding specialist seminars and work conferences has been a focus of the Association's work in the past. In 1994 and 1998, the Federal Association organised specialist congresses on children in day care, based on which key impulses were devised for the specialist further development of day care for children. In addition, the Federal Association certifies day care providers as part of a qualification and testing ordinance by. Meanwhile, far more than 6,000 day care providers have received a certificate.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
A list of the affiliated organisations is available at the following website: www.tagesmuetter-bundesverband.de.
Bundesverband Katholischer Vorsorge- und Rehabilitationseinrichtungen für Kinder und Jugendliche e. V.

Federal Association of Catholic Preventive and Rehabilitation Institutions for Children and Young People

Karlstr. 40; D-79104 Freiburg
Tel.: +49 761 200-221; Fax:0761 200-609
E-Mail: heidrun.koop@caritas.de; Internet: www.kinderkuren.caritas.de

The Federal Association of Catholic Preventive and Rehabilitation Institutions for Children and Young People has been a recognised specialist association of the German Caritas Society (Deutscher Caritasverband) since 1924. Eight institutions are members of the Association. The specialist association regards itself as a lobby of the church for children and young people who, due to their physical or mental problems, require targeted prevention or rehabilitation measures in order to cope with everyday life. The affiliated institutions offer in-patient measures for holistic prevention and therapy for a wide variety of indications. These interdisciplinary, medical, social and special education therapies promote prevention and therapy and simultaneously support or improve the future perspectives of children and young people.

The Association represents the interests of children and young people as well as institutions by political activities on a national level in the state, association and church sector by organising central Federal expert conferences on current topics, by co-operating with other expert organisations and committees on the national level, by co-operating with those involved in the work of preventative and rehabilitation measures and by engaging in public relations, producing and publishing materials and specialist publications. In addition, the specialist association supports its affiliated institutions by providing advice on specialist, association and political matters and by promoting the further development of medical preventative and rehabilitation measures for children and young people. Furthermore, the Association works with Caritas counselling and mediation organisations on the local level and supports the local Caritas counselling centres that act as support and contact points in matters of applications.
Bundesverband Kinderhospiz e.V.

National Association of Children’s Hospices

Antoniterstr. 13; D-79106 Freiburg
Tel.: +49 180 5587687; Fax: +49 761 7661726
E-Mail: info@bundesverband-kinderhospiz.de
Internet: www.bundesverband-kinderhospiz.de

The National Association of Children's Hospices was founded in 2002 by an initiative of out-patient and in-patient children’s hospices. It is a recognised charitable association. Today, the National Association is the umbrella association for children’s hospice work. It represents the interests of its members in national and international matters. Foundations that support children’s hospice work are also members of the National Association. Organisations whose work is connected to the associations of children’s hospices may also become a member.

Its tasks include public relations, lobbying, quality development, further education, information and counselling for interested parties, initiatives and institutions, specialists and interface institutions in children's hospice work. As a specialist association, it is a point of contact for politicians, scientists, doctors, hospitals, financing organisations, donors and supporters.

The National Association of Children's Hospices has a modular curriculum for the qualification of volunteers, which is a result of the wide range of experiences in the Association. With the introduction of the certificate for graduates, the National Association is establishing pioneering principles for the nationwide mutual recognition of qualification modules.

In autumn 2007, the National Association of Children's Hospices established a foundation (www.bundessstiftung-kinderhospiz.de), in which renowned specialists support its work on a voluntary basis. The Foundation collects donations to support children's hospice work across Germany and to provide direct aid to those affected.

The National Association of Children's Hospices is a member of various specialist committees on the national level, e.g. the Federal Society for Paediatric Palliative Care (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Pädiatrischen Palliativversorgung) and the Working Group of Children and Youth of the German Society for Palliative Medicine (Arbeitskreis Kinder und Jugendliche der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Palliativmedizin). Internationally, it is a member of the EAPC (European Association for Palliative Care) and a steering committee member of the ICPCN (International Children's Palliative Care Network). It represents the Western European Region in the ICPCN.
Bundesvereinigung Evangelischer Tageseinrichtungen für Kinder e. V.

Federal Association of Protestant Day-Care Centres for Children

Reichensteiner Weg 24, D-14195 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 83001-367, Fax: +49 30 83001-780
E-Mail: mail@beta-diakonie.de; Internet: www.beta-diakonie.de

The Federal Association of Protestant Day-Care Centres for Children (BETA) is a specialist Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland, EKD) and an amalgamation of the Länder associations of Protestant day-care centres for children or the Länder social welfare agencies of the Regional Protestant Churches with their specialist departments for day-care centres for children. It was established in 1922.

The Federal Association’s objective is the promotion of the children’s well-being in all types of day-care centres for children (day-care facilities for children, kindergartens, after-school care centres and creches) in the Christian spirit and while including aspects of education and social policy.

It provides the following activities: consultancy and support for its members regarding their education and care activities with their orientation to the Christian faith, the development of common opinions on principles, the development and exchange of positions and recommendations, further education of specialist consultants for its affiliates, suggestions and support for their work with parents, information services and analyses, position papers, conference documentation, co-operation with Protestant and other specialist associations, co-operation with the Protestant Church in Germany, representation of its interests in child and youth service policy issues as well as the design of legislative provisions. Its objective is to support the development of the specific profile of Protestant providers and facilities.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

Through its Länder associations, BETA is represented nationwide. Contact addresses are available at www.beta-diakonie.de.
Das fröhliche Krankenzimmer e. V.

The Happy Patient’s Room

c/o Dr. med. Ute Otten
Böhler Hof 1; D-42119 Wuppertal
Tel.: +49 202 420914; Fax: +49 202 427749
E-Mail: johanna.hess@med.uni-muenchen.de
Internet: www.aerztinnenbund.de/das-froehliche-krankenzimmer-e-v-.0.105.1.html

The objective of the association is to provide as many children as possible with professionally selected child and youth literature during their stay in hospital, and to support them with therapeutic reading material. For this purpose, it has a model library and a central transfer office in Munich, which is working in a network with currently 80 local libraries, library corners in children’s hospitals, departments and wards. At irregular intervals (between 1 and 3 years), it organises further education events for the staff, and these events are also open to other interested participants.
“SOS Children’s Villages” is a voluntary non-profit child and youth service provider. It is dedicated to life-world driven and participative approaches of social work, especially for socially disadvantaged children, adolescents, and families. The SOS Children’s Villages association maintains 46 facilities in Germany: children’s villages, youth facilities, vocational training centres, village communities for disabled people, advisory services, centres for mothers, and multi-generation houses. Its main focus are the 14 SOS Children’s Villages, networks that offer a differentiated range of residential and non-residential services. With its innovative approaches and integrated “one-stop” service offers, the SOS Children’s Villages association makes an important contribution to the development of social work in Germany for which it receives expert acknowledgement. The leitmotif of the SOS Children’s Villages association lays down the principles of its work: “People in need of help are at the centre of our activities. For them, we develop quality services, according to the level of knowledge in the field and designed to meet their individual requirements. In doing so, we regard the continuity and reliability of relationships and their emotional quality as the prerequisites for a beneficial development. We create living spaces in which people feel accepted and feel that they belong to. We encourage and support them in discovering their own options and strengths, in becoming confident people that show solidarity with others and act in a self-determined way. We see being part of a social network and recognition by others as indispensable to leading a satisfying life.”
Verband Katholischer Tageseinrichtungen für Kinder (KTK) – Bundesverband e.V.

National Association of Catholic Day Care Centres for Children

Karlstr. 40; D–79104 Freiburg
Tel.: +49 761 200–238; Fax: +49 761 200–735
E-Mail: ktk-bundesverband@caritas.de; Internet: www.ktk-bundesverband.de

The National Association of Catholic Day Care Centres for Children (KTK) goes back to 1912 (between 1920 and 1991 it was known as the National Association of Catholic Kindergartens and Daycare Centres in Germany. It is a nationally recognized specialised organisation of the German Caritas Association (Deutscher Caritasverband), which represents approx. 8,000 facilities operated by the Catholic Church and their interests vis-à-vis the church, associations and public authorities on the national level. The political activities of the association focus on supporting the further development of Catholic day care facilities for children under all theoretical and practical aspects and the related concerns for a quantitative and qualitative development of care programmes in line with the perceived needs. The Association realises it objectives primarily by issuing materials, expert publications and position papers, by providing national further education programmes for multipliers, by hosting conferences, expert meetings and study meetings, and by introducing innovative projects and actions on the national level in co-operation with the agencies of individual dioceses or groups of dioceses.

DIOCESAN AND REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

The addresses of diocesan and regional working groups are available at www.ktk-bundesverband.de.
The Federation of Youth Farms and Adventure Playgrounds (BdJA) was founded in 1972 and is an independent, charitable umbrella organisation for initiatives and associations supporting pedagogically supervised playgrounds. It promotes children’s rights to playgrounds and sustainable development.

The European Federation of City Farms (EFCF) was founded in 1990 and now represents around 1,000 similar organisations in more than 10 countries. Together with like-minded initiatives and organisations, the BdJA works to improve living conditions for children and young people and promotes their interests.

The Federation of Youth Farms and Adventure Playgrounds
- encourages members of the community to implement their own ideas and experiences in the form of specific initiatives and wishes to thus strengthen society;
- presents exemplary initiatives and organisations in publications for the broader public and thus helps them to gain wider recognition;
- provides assistance in planning, carrying out and assessing activities by the member associations;
- provides colleagues with information, experience sharing, and contacts by way of events and advanced training opportunities;
- assists initiatives, communities and specialists in urban planning in the planning and creation of new playgrounds;
- maintains contacts with authorities and key associations at Länder and national level;
- supports international co-operation by participating and co-organising international conferences and by providing financial and professional help for youth exchange programmes;
- develops co-operation with organisations which are involved in open work with children and young people.

The goal of the Federation is to see that more pedagogically supervised playgrounds are created than standard playgrounds and that they are provided with adequate political and financial support. In addition to this, the BdJA works on the further development of contents in relation to playground pedagogy. To this end, the Federation is engaged in a dialogue with universities and experts in the fields of education, health, and urban planning as well as professionals and businesses.

MEMBERS
The addresses of affiliates can be found on the Federation’s website at www.bdja.org/adressen.htm.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Offene Kinder- und Jugendeinrichtungen e.V.

Federal Association of Public Child and Youth Facilities

c/o AGF Baden-Württemberg
Siemensstr. 11; D-70469 Stuttgart
Tel.: +49 711 896915-17; Fax: +49 711 896915-88
E-Mail: info@agjf.de
Internet: www.offene-jugendarbeit.info, www.bundesnetz.de

The Federal Association of Public Child and Youth Facilities (BAG OKJE) – founded 1994 – is an umbrella organisation of currently more than 3,000 German public child and youth facilities (mainly child and youth clubs and centres) through their national and Länder associations as well as regional federations. These are not represented by any other institution on the national level.

BAG OKJE, which operates on a voluntary basis, organises expert conferences and congresses, in which current topics and developments on child and youth work are discussed on a national and Land level. The aim of its further education programme is the exchange of experiences and expert orientation as well as the qualification of employees in open child and youth work. A further aim of the BAG OKJE is the improvement of political, professional and legal general conditions for the work of the facilities of open child and youth work. For example, it negotiated a framework agreement with the Gema for the institutions of open child and youth work with the result that the duty to remunerate musical performances in corresponding facilities will be charged at an annual flat rate.

Furthermore, BAG OKJE communicates the objectives of the open child and youth facilities in its public relations and is a platform for the discussion on the conceptual further development of open child and youth work. Its work stimulates exchange, co-operation and networking and maintains contacts to other national organisations of open child and youth work.

Since 1995, BAG OKJE has published an extensive bibliography of German-language literature on open child and youth work as well as a directory of writings. In addition, it publishes the magazine “Open Youth Work” (Offene Jugendarbeit).

The work of BAG-OKJE takes place on a voluntary basis. The projects for further education, qualification and expert orientation are supported by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend). BAG-OKJE is a member of the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ).

MEMBERS

The addresses of affiliates whose addresses are not listed here are available from the BAG OKJE office.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

Arbeitsgemeinschaft “Haus der offenen Tür”, Nordrhein-Westfalen
Graf-Recke-Str. 209, D–40237 Düsseldorf,
Tel. +49 221 3610–264, Fax +49 221 3610–260,
info@agot-nrw.de, www.agot-nrw.de

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugendfreizeitstätten
Baden-Württemberg e.V.
Siemensstr. 11; D–70469 Stuttgart,
Tel. +49 711 896915–0; Fax +49 711 896915–88,
info@agjf.de, www.agjf.de

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugendfreizeitstätten Sachsen e.V.
Neefestr. 82, D–09119 Chemnitz,
Tel. +49 371 53364–0; Fax +49 371 53364–26,
info@agjf-sachsen.de, www.agjf-sachsen.de
ASSOCIATIONS WITH REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugendfreizeitstätten Thüringen i.G.
Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Kommunalen Träger in Rheinland-Pfalz
Landesverband der Offenen Kinder- und Jugendeinrichtungen in Schleswig-Holstein
www.jugendzentren-sh.de
Verband Saarländischer Jugendzentren in Selbstverwaltung e.V. – Juz United
Schumannstr. 5, D–66111 Saarbrücken,
Tel. +49 681 635359,
zentrale@juz-united.de, www.juz-united.de

Regionale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Offene Jugendarbeit in Hessen/Gießen
Regionale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Offene Kinder- und Jugendeinrichtungen im Landkreis Stade

NATIONWIDE ASSOCIATIONS

Evangelische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Klubarbeit e.V. Hamburg
Andreas Meyer,
Dorfsstr. 52, 19243 Dodow,
www.offene-jugendarbeit.de

PASSIVE MEMBERS

There are currently roughly 600 (youth) facilities in Federal Länder with no Land or regional umbrella association.
Bundesvereinigung Soziokultureller Zentren e.V.

Federal Union of Sociocultural Centres

Lehrter Str. 27-30; D-10557 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 397449-0; Fax: +49 30 397449-9
E-Mail: bundesvereinigung@soziokultur.de; Internet: www.soziokultur.de

Sociocultural centres offer a non-genre-specific and ‘down-to-earth’ event programme on a ‘365/365’ basis, contribute to promoting young artists in the fields of theatre, music, literature, film and visual and plastic arts and enable large groups of the population to actively participate in our cultural and political life.

Their activities include the integration of various age groups, social classes and nationalities, the support and promotion of social and political activities and the implementation of democratic decision-making structures, which are a prerequisite for an active and responsible participation of as many people as possible in these centres.

With various emphases, sociocultural centres are now primarily active
- in child and youth work, in children’s play groups, open spaces, homework assistance, creativity courses, holiday outings, preparatory vocational training courses, vocational preparation and training, counselling, occupational projects, open workshops,
- in community work (newspapers, local district fairs),
- in political initiatives for urban development (co-operation with grassroots initiatives, associations and schools),
- in programming and event-related activities (theatre, cabaret, music, exhibitions, readings, cinema, discotheques and dances), also for specific target groups,
- in programmes for senior citizens (creativity and preventive health courses, social services, history workshops, dances, lending libraries),
- in education and political activities (seminars, workshops, educational leave, discussion events, language courses).

The Federal Union and the Länder working parties share the mission of coordinating and promoting work in the centres and to represent their interests vis-à-vis the general public and political structures. The networking on the Federal and Länder levels ensures consultation, further education, exchange and support both for existing centres and initiatives and for newly created ones. Ultimately, the activities of the Federal Union aim at winning recognition for self-determined socio-cultural work as an established element of cultural life and the equal treatment of these centres in relation to the established cultural institutions, when it comes to the applicable funding policies and taxation rules.

The Federal Union of Sociocultural Centres is not only a network in its own right; it is also part of a network. As a member of the German Cultural Council (Deutscher Kulturrat), it is represented in the Council for Socioculture (Rat für Soziokultur) and in other national associations such as the Sociocultural Fund (Fonds Soziokultur). It co-operates with other professional associations and institutions on the national level, e.g. the Society for Cultural Policy (Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft), the Federal Association of Youth Art Schools and Institutions of Cultural Education (Bundesverband der Jugendkunstschulen und kulturpädagogischen Einrichtungen), the Federal Association for Student Cultural Work (Bundesverband Studentische Kulturarbeit), the Federal Association of Free Theatres (Bundesverband Freier Theater) and the German Trade
Union Confederation (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund). The Federal Union is also the secretariat of the European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC; www.encc.eu).

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS AND LÄNDER WORKING PARTIES
The Federal Union of Sociocultural Centres is the amalgamation of Länder associations and Länder working parties from Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, Northrhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Schleswig-Holstein, Saxony and Thuringia. It currently has 473 centres in 15 Länder. The addresses of Länder associations and Länder working parties and their affiliates are available from the website of the Federal Union.
Youth Dedication Germany

Bundesverband
Wackenbergstr. 90; D-13156 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 5509314; Fax: +49 30 5509314
E-Mail: bundesverband.jugendweihe@gmx.de; Internet: www.jugendweihe.de

Youth Dedication Germany was founded as an interest group in 1990, later renamed as Interest Group for Humanist Youth Work and Youth Dedication (Interessensvereinigung für humanistische Jugendarbeit und Jugendweihe). Since 2001, the association has been known as Youth Dedication Germany. It does not have any party political or ideological affiliations and exclusively pursues non-profit activities.

Youth Dedication Germany is a union of associations, which – pursuant to their statutes – offer assistance, orientation and support to young people in designing their lives. They are concerned with facilitating their integration in society and showing them opportunities for a self-assured and meaningful life. With their activities, the affiliated associations also want to contribute to young people developing a familiarity with the diversity and universality of human rights, to develop a commitment to these rights and to become aware of the related rights and duties of a responsible citizen. Young people are meant to develop a sense of responsibility for their own actions in society, show tolerance in dealing with people and intolerance of any form of discrimination and learn non-violent forms of conflict settlement.

With a multifaceted open youth work programme, which is oriented towards the interests of girls and boys between 12 and 16 years of age, the association considers itself as a provider of non-public youth services. Affiliated associations also offer youth dedication ceremonies and name giving/dedication ceremonies for families, if they so wish.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS

The Länder associations of Youth Dedication Germany are available at www.jugendweihe.de.
The Federal Association Aid to Offenders (BAG-S) was founded in 1990 as an amalgamation of social welfare associations. As a professional organisation, its objective is to improve and to extend the assistance to offenders and to represent services assisting offenders on the Federal level. The Association’s objective is to provide consultancy, coordination and further development on these issues to its affiliated associations.

BAG-S discharges its tasks by organising expert conferences, advising expert facilities, analysing statistics for practitioners and ensuring a regular information service for the staff of service providers for offenders. In addition, BAG-S wants to contribute to raising the public awareness for the tasks involved in the re-socialisation of offenders by providing consultation and information to the media with respect to publications, radio and TV reports on the assistance to offenders, for example.

The basic objective of BAG-S’s work is to fight against the marginalisation of offenders. For this purpose, it co-operates with all organisations with similar objectives and defends the problems and demands of assistance services for offenders vis-à-vis legislative bodies, ministries and central authorities. In expert working groups and a national expert conference, it prepares joint comments, drafts position papers and proposals for reforms on issues such as youth confinement, pay for the work performed by inmates, networking of social services assisting offenders and on the reform of pre-trial custody.

MEMBERS

- Arbeiterwohlfahrt – Bundesverband e.V.
- DBH e.V. – Fachverband für Soziale Arbeit, Strafrecht und Kriminalpolitik
- Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.
- Der Paritätische Gesamtverband e.V.
- Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.
- Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e.V.
- Zentralwohlfahrtstätte der Juden in Deutschland e.V.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Verfahrenspflegschaft für Kinder und Jugendliche e. V.

Federal Association of Guardians ad litem/Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children and Young People

Großbeerenstr. 56 E; D-10965 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 7889–2057; Fax: +49 30 7889–6043
E-Mail: info@verfahrenspflegschaft-bag.de
Internet: www.verfahrenspflegschaft-bag.de

The Federal Association of Guardians ad litem/Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children and Young People (BAG Verfahrenspflegschaft) was established in 2000. With the new Law on Parents and Children, which entered into force on 1 July 1998, the legal institute of the “Guardian ad litem for the child” was introduced, but the aptitude and responsibilities of these guardians as well as his/her rights and duties were not specified in detail. The Association’s mission is to ensure that “guardians ad litem for children and young persons exercise their duties with the appropriate qualifications” and it wants to realise this objective primarily by “developing standards for the execution of guardianships ad litem for children and young persons and by controlling their compliance”.

The objectives stated in the Association’s statutes are primarily realised by the following activities: developing and introducing standards for the execution of guardianships ad litem for children and young persons, offering and organising the further education, training and supervision of guardians ad litem; evaluating the practice while considering the experiences of minors, for whom a guardian ad litem was appointed; public relations and networking between guardians ad litem.

The Federal Association of Guardians ad litem/Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children and Young People is a cooperating partner of “Child Prax (Kind-Prax)”, a magazine for the practical application and implementation of the Law on Parents and Children.

MEMBERS

Details of the contacts of regional groups are available at www.verfahrenspflegschaft-bag.de.
The German Probation Services Association, which is a spin-off of the “German Probation Services” (Deutsche Bewährungshilfe), an association founded in 1951 as supporter of pilot projects for the introduction of probation services in German criminal law, is active nationally and internationally. It promotes the practice and the reform of a constitutional state-based, social criminal law and humane services to offenders, makes a contribution to crime prevention, works to eradicate and reduce causes, manifestations and secondary problems of crime, supports damage mitigation and the compensation of crime victims and the reintegration of convicts.

The German Probation Services Association promotes the cooperation between people working in the criminal law professions, criminal law social services and non-state criminal aid. It contributes to bridging the gap between the principles of theory and practice in the sector of social work and criminal law and helps to (better) coordinate the objectives of criminal and social policy. The work of the German Probation Services Association is geared towards establishing and strengthening the understanding of the population for a social criminal judiciary and its tasks.

By statements written by specialists, the German Probation Services Association influences criminal and social policy developments. This includes contacts with representatives of legal and social policy, with practitioners of criminal judiciary and with representatives of non-state organisations.

The DBH Education Foundation offers possibilities for training and further training. Full-time and honorary employees in the judiciary as well as other interested parties, can acquire specialist skills and supplement their qualification by getting information on new developments, exchanging experiences, developing and testing new approaches for action, counselling and practical research.

The German Probation Services Association publishes the magazine “Probation Service – Social Matters – Criminal Law – Criminal Policy” (Bewährungshilfe – Soziales, Strafrecht, Kriminalpolitik, BewHi), one of the best known media in this field, and it also performs targeted and subject-oriented public relations activities through presentations, seminars and Federal congresses.

The DBH is a federation of more than 40 associations and societies with a total of more than 10,000 members working in nationwide, regional and local criminal, probation and victim services. The German Probation Services Association is an active member in the Permanent European Conference on Probation (CEP).

CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERS
A list of the members of the DBH is available at the website www.dbh-online.de.
Deutsche Vereinigung für Jugendgerichte und Jugendgerichtshilfen e.V.

German Association for Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Court Services

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The objectives of the German Association for Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Court Services (DVJJ) call for a discussion on juvenile delinquency issues while taking into account scientific insights and practical experiences and promoting their resolution. The Association wants to be a forum for professional, political and public discussions on juvenile criminal law and public policy on juvenile delinquency and youth service matters. The Association was founded in 1917 and consists of representatives of all occupations involved with the juvenile justice system. It is not an organisation of any specific profession; instead it is a specialist association and especially advocates interdisciplinary co-operation in matters of juvenile justice. DVJJ works as an independent expert and consultation structure. By presenting expert opinions, position papers and drafting legislation, it exerts influence on the design and reform of juvenile criminal law issues. A major responsibility of the Association lies in the further training and education of individuals working in the field of juvenile criminal law. DVJJ members have formed regional and Länder groups in all Federal states to report and discuss specific issues and problems encountered in the practical application of juvenile criminal law. Consequently and in addition to the national conferences organised by DVJJ, e.g. the triennial German Juvenile Court Congress (Deutscher Jugendgerichtstag), DVJJ hosts regional further education meetings and promotes the exchange of experience among practitioners. In addition to a series of publications, which includes – among others – the documentation of the German Juvenile Court Congress, a reader on “Non-custodial social education activities for juvenile delinquents (Ambulante sozialpädagogische Maßnahmen für junge Straffällige)” and the “Guideline for lay juvenile court judges (Leitfaden für Jugendschöffen)”, DVJJ acts as publisher of the ‘Journal for juvenile criminal law and youth services’ (Zeitschrift für Jugendkriminalrecht und Jugendhilfe).
Alateen – Selbsthilfegruppen für Kinder und jugendliche Angehörige von Alkoholikern

Alateen – Self-Help Group for Children and Young Relatives of Alcoholics

c/o Al-Anon Familiengruppen
Emilienstr. 4; D-45128 Essen
Tel.: +49 201 773007; Fax: +49 201 773008
E-Mail: zdb@al-anon.de; Internet: www.al-anon.de

Alateen belongs to the Al-Anon Family Groups – a community of relatives and friends of alcoholics – whose life has been adversely affected by the alcoholism of a relative or close friend. The organisation was founded in California in 1957, the first German groups were established in 1973.

Alateens, young people between 10 and 20, get together to share their experiences, strengths and hopes, to talk about their difficulties, to identify an effective way of addressing and successfully overcoming their problems, to provide mutual encouragement, and to learn to understand the principles of the Al-Anon programme. A special feature of Alateen are its group activities, whose only purpose is to overcome the specific problems of group members. Each Alateen group works under the supervision of an experienced Al-Anon sponsor. Maintaining the members’ anonymity is an important principle of its work.
The Alliance for Drug-Free Education (BdE) is a working group of teachers, parents, youth group leaders and others, who are interested in the active prevention of drug dependency. It is the successor organisation of the German Association of Abstinent Teachers (Deutschen Verein enthaltsamer Lehrer), which was founded as a professional association of the abstinence movement, which was later renamed as German Alliance for Alcohol-Free Culture (Deutscher Bund für alkoholfreie Kultur). It has been known by its current name since 1980.

BdE’s focus of activities is on forms of addiction, which are associated with substance consumption. Its special attention is devoted to the legal drugs, i.e. nicotine and alcohol. In its prevention activities, BdE wants to fight against the use of these “everyday drugs” as well as the use of illegal drugs. It wants to ensure that the addiction problems are comprehensively addressed in all fields of teaching and that activities are promoted, which lead to a critical awareness and discussion of addiction problems. Based on its philosophy on the causes of addiction, BdE wants to support especially those activities, which are considered as suitable in delaying the initial contact with addictive substances, reduce their consumption, introduce alternatives to the consumption of addictive substances, encourage young people to live a life free of addiction and make them aware of avoidance strategies as a possible start of future addictions.

For its members and interested professionals from various fields of education, BdE organises seminars and further education courses.
The German Centre For Addiction Issues (DHS) was founded in 1947 as a German centre to combat the dangers of addiction and is the umbrella organisation of 25 nationally active associations in the field of addict assistance and addiction prevention, who work together in central provider groups. The affiliated associations have around 1,300 counselling facilities and more than 160 specialised hospitals. The aim of DHS’s affiliated associations is to organisationally combine their expertise in matters and problems of addiction prevention and addict services. DHS supports and coordinates the work of its affiliates.

DHS provides information and counselling to people on addiction-related problems and draws attention to service programmes; its work takes into account all types of addictive drugs (alcohol, tobacco, medicine, drugs, inhaled substances), as well as eating disorders and pathological gambling habits. In addition, it organises scientific expert conferences, seminars and meetings on combating and preventing addictions and supervises model projects. It particularly focuses on the further development of professional standards, the qualification of counselling and treatment facilities and the expansion of these facilities to include extensive assistance programmes as well as a network of out-patient and in-patient services to addicts with other social service programmes, e.g. open youth work, assistance to offenders, unemployment assistance, debtor counselling.

Furthermore, DHS has extensive documentation (library and archive) on all addiction-relevant topics and provides information to interested parties through its publications by e.g. publishing current practical argumentation and working aids.

MEMBERS

PROVIDERS OF VOLUNTARY WELFARE SERVICES

Arbeiterwohlfahrt – Bundesverband e.V.
BAG Psychiatrie – Landeswohlfahrtsverband Hessen
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Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.
Der Paritätische Gesamtverband e.V.
Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.
Gesamtverband für Suchtkrankenhilfe im Diakonischen Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e.V.

TEMPERANCE AND SELF-HELP ASSOCIATIONS

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Blaues Kreuz in Deutschland e.V.
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Bundesverband der Elternkreise drogengefährdeter und drogenabhängiger Jugendlicher e.V.
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Freundeskreise für Suchtkrankenhilfe – Bundesverband e.V.
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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY

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Kreuzbund e.V.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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Bahn-Zentralstelle gegen die Alkoholgefahren
www.bszw24.de/bzal

Bundesfachverband Essstörungen
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Bundesverband für stationäre Suchtkrankenhilfe e.V.
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10.8
Fachverband Drogen und Rauschmittel e.V.

Association “Drugs and Narcotics”

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The Association “Drugs and Narcotics” (fdr) was established in 1979. The idea was to create a professional association of in-patient and out-patient drug counselling facilities, which cover the entire range of services required in this area. According to the fdr statutes, fdr supports activities, which help potential and actual drug-users – in particular young people – by providing the following measures (to mention just a few):
- Counselling and assistance to personnel working in outpatient, partly inpatient and inpatient facilities.
- Promoting the continuous professional education of qualified staff.
- Representing the interests of its members with a view to social and health policies.
- Co-operating in the field of suitable psychosocial assistance.
- Providing scientific support to accompany the practical activities.

A special feature of fdr is that the association does not offer its own drug counselling services to prevent any conflict of interests with its affiliated institutions.

Throughout its existence, fdr has continuously increased its membership and the scope of its work. Today, fdr comprises 74 organisations running approx. 300 addiction and drug counselling centres and youth work facilities. More than 1000 staff provide counselling and treatment services to approx. 30,000 clients per year. There are about 1,200 places available for in-patient treatment.

fdr is a member of the Paritätische Gesamtverband (► Der Paritätische Gesamtverband) and subscribes to the idea that all humans are equal and have equal potential; people’s denominational or partisan allegiances must not have any importance in the work of fdr. Tolerance, inclusion and diversity are fdr’s guiding principles.

fdr is also a member of the German Centre for Addiction Issues (Deutsche Hauptstelle für Suchtfragen, DHS) to ensure its co-operation with other associations in the sector of addiction counselling. www.fdr-online.info gives an overview of further education services, the Federal Drug Congress, publications and other topics.

MEMBERS
For a list of its members, please refer to www.fdr-online.info.
Fachverband Sucht e. V.

Association “Addiction”

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E-Mail: sucht@sucht.de; Internet: www.sucht.de

The Association “Addiction” (FVS) was established in 1976 and is active throughout Germany. It is an amalgamation of facilities devoted to the treatment, care and counselling of addicts. FVS currently represents 95 affiliated facilities with more than 6,200 inpatient and many outpatient therapy places. The association has no political or denominational affiliation and primarily represents facilities operated by non-public providers.

Its activities include sponsorship for measures, which permit an addiction-free life and are directed against the development, continuation and consequences of addiction. These include: promoting treatment and care programmes for affected individuals; identifying preventive actions appropriate for the prevention of addictive developments; assuring the quality of current and future treatment programmes and establishing evidence for the effectiveness of such treatments; promoting the dissemination of scientific findings on the causes and the development of addiction as well as the effectiveness of various treatment methods. The Association advocates a co-operation of politicians, managers and cost carriers, scientists, therapy practitioners and self-help systems.

FVS organises the annual Heidelberg Congress on current addiction issues. It regularly hosts further education events and working meetings, where insights and suggestions are disseminated on daily addiction therapy practices and service facilities. The seminars are addressed to nursing staff, social service personnel, non-therapeutic staff, medical doctors, psychologists and therapists working in outpatient and inpatient settings.

The FVS media programmes include the FVS series of publications, which include the proceedings of congresses and events, and the “Current addiction issues” (Sucht aktuell) magazine, which is published bi-annually and provides background and current information on underlying general themes. FVS also provides information and counselling to interested individuals and organisations in the fields of prevention, counselling and treatment, aftercare and adoption. Current topics are addressed in working groups with a concrete mandate to develop subject-specific recommendations and materials/aids for FVS and its affiliates.

MEMBERS

The contact data of member facilities are available at www.sucht.de.
The National Association of Addiction Assistance Services in the Diakonie Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (GVS), which was founded in 1957, is a national representative of the interests of welfare and social addiction services to politics, the public and the specialist public. As a specialist association for the sector of addiction assistance services in the Diakonie Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church on a national level, it co-ordinates and supports the work of the associations and institutions that are active in the Diakonie Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church and that offer care for addicts.

Its work focuses on continuing and further education, addiction prevention in companies and public relations. GVS’s continuing and further education programmes include the organisation of a 3-year part-time vocational training with the disciplines of psychoanalysis, behavioural therapy and system therapy, further education seminars for full-time experts of out-patient and in-patient addiction services, as well as the organisation of specialist conferences on current topics from the field of addiction and dependency, prevention, post-care.

The GVS is part of the group of private voluntary social service, which have come together on a national level in the DHS central organisation to combat the dangers of addiction and it represents the main Protestant providers’ group. GVS’s affiliates are abstinence and self-help groups, out-patient counselling and treatment centres, specialist hospitals for addicts, therapy and post-care facilities for addicts, as well as more than 28,000 abstinent member groups.
Kreuzbund e. V.

Federation of the Cross

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The Federation of the Cross is a self-help organisation and carers’ organisation for addicts and their relatives. It was founded in 1896 and is the Catholic self-help and carers’ organisation for addicts in Germany.

The Federation’s goal is both to prevent the risk of addiction, in particular the abuse of addictive substances, as well as preventive care and aftercare for addicts or people who are at risk of addiction and their relatives, as well as being their public and political lobby.

More than 1,500 self-help groups with over 15,000 members belong to the Federation. These cooperate with advisory services and treatment centres as well as specialised hospitals in order to offer guidance on the possibilities to obtain medical treatment and other forms of help. They support women, advocate an alcohol-free education of children and adolescents, and offer support in adjusting to a meaningful abstinent life and self-dependent lifestyle, and the possibility of religious commitment.

The bodies of the Federation of the Cross are the Delegates’ Assembly (Delegiertenversammlung), the Federal Conference (Bundeskonferenz) and the Executive Committee (Bundesvorstand). The Federation of the Cross is an association of the German Caritas Society (Deutscher Caritasverband).
The Federal Association for Protestant Youth Social Work (BAG EJSA) was founded in Bremen in 1949. It is the national union of protestant institutions of youth social work. The BAG is the umbrella association for 15 member organisations from Protestant youth social work, welfare and social work and Protestant youth work on a national and state church level.

The BAG EJSA supports young people between the ages of 14 and 27 in preparing for training and careers, during vocational training, in crises while acclimatising to work and society, in professional crises and in particular situations.

This is mainly performed by passing on information and by the counselling provided by the member associations, but also by carrying out coordination tasks and the overall control of individual relevant topics in the Co-operation Association for Youth Social Work (Kooperationsverbund Jugendsozialarbeit). With individual projects that the BAG EJSA carries out itself, innovations and new methods are tested in youth social work and made practically feasible. As part of its wide variety of tasks, the BAG EJSA strives to promote dialogue between academia, political decision-making levels and practitioners.

As a representative of political interests for member associations and institutions of Protestant youth social work on a national level, the BAG EJSA carries out lobbying for young people who are socially disadvantaged, marginalised, unemployed or homeless and enhances youth social work concepts. Furthermore, it promotes the specialist exchange within the Association. The working fields range from the fields of youth social work and education, youth career counselling, integration of young people with a migrant background, social work with girls, mobile youth work, youth homes and youth social work in Europe.

For this purpose, the BAG organises specialist conferences and part-time vocational further training on the fields of action of youth social work, oversees national programmes and model projects and supports concept development, project development and counselling. Furthermore, it runs an information service, brings out specialist publications and provides advice to the political arena. It has national and European networks and offers modern communication services on a national and European level.
The BAG EJSA strives to establish gender equality for men and women or boys and girls in all sectors and in all levels of the Association. Here, the implementation of gender mainstreaming is regarded as an ongoing process.

The BAG EJSA strives to establish gender equality for men and women or boys and girls in all sectors and in all levels of the Association. Here, the implementation of gender mainstreaming is regarded as a constantly continuous process.

MEMBERS

萍 Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland e.V.
in co-operation with:
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萍 Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche der Pfalz e.V.
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萍 Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e.V.
萍 Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche von Westfalen
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萍 www.diakonie-hessen-nassau.de
萍 Diakonisches Werk Württemberg
萍 c/o Referat Jugendsozialarbeit,
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萍 scholz.i@diakonie-wuerttemberg.de,
萍 http://portal.diakonie-wuerttemberg.de
萍 Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit in Bayern e.V.
萍 Loriistr. 3, D–80335 München,
萍 Tel. +49 89 159187–6,
萍 kontakt@ejsa-bayern.de, www.ejsa-bayern.de
萍 Fachverband Evangelische Erziehungshilfen, Beratungs- und Jugendsozialarbeit Berlin-Brandenburg
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萍 Tel. +49 30 82097–0,
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萍 Fachverband für Arbeit, berufliche und soziale Integration im Diakonischen Werk der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland
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萍 Verein für Internationale Jugendarbeit e.V.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Katholische Jugendsozialarbeit e. V.

Federal Association for Catholic Youth Social Work

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The Federal Association for Catholic Youth Social Work (BAG KJS) – formerly: the Catholic Association for Youth Social Work (Katholische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendsozialarbeit, KJS) – was founded in 1954 and is an association of national organisations and working groups in the Länder. Based on its Christian beliefs, BAG KJS assists and advises young people, and especially socially disadvantaged or individually challenged persons, and represents them in politics and society. It strives to enable them to show their personalities, and to develop their talents and abilities. BAG KJS co-operates with individuals and institutions in industry, society, politics, the Länder, the churches and independent organisations and ensures that these individuals receive the assistance they need.

Its present activities of topical significance are vocational training assistance for young people, social work in schools, youth social work specifically for girls and boys, outreach youth services, supervised housing and integration assistance for young people (assistance, integration assistance, counselling and the organisation of language courses).

In addition, BAG KJS provides conceptual and financial support for projects and supports organisations working on behalf of disadvantaged young people. BAG KJS is actively involved in societal and scientific discussions and contributes to the resolution of problem situations in partnership and co-operation. Through its activities, BAG KJS strives to contribute to the future-oriented design of our society.

MEMBERS

FEDERAL CENTRES AND ORGANISATIONS

- Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend
- Deutscher Caritasverband e. V.
- IN VIA Katholischer Verband für Mädchen- und Frauensozialarbeit – Deutschland e. V.
- Katholische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Migration (KAM) Kolpingwerk Deutschland – Bundesverband
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- Salesianer Don Boscos
- Sozialdienst katholischer Frauen – Zentrale e. V.

Verband der Kolpinghäuser e. V.
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LAND ASSOCIATIONS

There are Land associations in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin/Brandenburg, in the Northern Region (Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein), Hesse/Rhineland-Palatinate/Saarland, Northrhine-Westphalia, Thuringia and Saxony. The addresses are available at http://bagkjs.jugendsozialarbeit.de.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft örtlich regionaler Träger der Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.

Federal Association of Local and Regional Providers of Youth Social Services

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E-Mail: info@bag-oert.de; Internet: www.bag-oert.de

The Federal Association of Local and Regional Providers of Youth Social Services, which currently has 65 affiliates from the field of youth vocational services/youth social services, regards itself as a platform for the development and expression of the professional and political opinions of its affiliated providers. It is an institutional co-operation of providers of youth social services with a pronounced regional background and supports its affiliates in implementing their activities, i.e. the social and professional integration of socially disadvantaged and individually challenged young individuals.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Streetwork/Mobile Jugendarbeit e.V.

Federal Association Streetwork/Mobile Youth Work

c/o Servicestelle Burckhardthaus Gelnhausen
Herzbachweg 2; D–63571 Gelnhausen
Tel.: +49 6051 89258; E-Mail: s.gillich@burckhardthaus.de
Internet: www.bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft-streetwork-mobile-jugendarbeit.de

The Federal Association Streetwork/Mobile Youth Work is a national federation of Land associations whose members are social workers performing streetwork and mobile youth work. The Federal Association Streetwork/Mobile Youth Work represents approx. 1,000 employees from 300 different streetwork/mobile youth work projects.

The principal goals of the Federal Association are to improve social and living circumstances, to expand the competences for action in the Association’s target group, to develop societal and individual resources, to avoid or reduce social disadvantages, lack of orientation and the willingness to commit violence and to develop content-related/theoretical and sociopolitical intervention strategies.

The target groups of streetwork/mobile youth work include people whose central place of socialisation and residence is permanently or temporarily outside, i.e. on the “streets”, and who are affected by social disadvantages, marginalisation, discrimination and/or criminalisation. In Russia, the Federal Association supports local streetwork/mobile youth work projects through co-operations with local partners.

The Federal Association Streetwork/Mobile Youth Work organises specialist conferences on current focal topics for its work (child and youth violence, youth crime, drug abuse, youth unemployment, poverty). In addition, the Federal Association offers employees professional introductory seminars, qualification courses and further training. It publishes articles in the corresponding expert press and makes statements on current topics of youth and social policy.

The Federal Association Streetwork/Mobile Youth Work works with Burckhardthaus Gelnhausen, various national associations from the field of youth welfare and youth social work, with the International Society for Mobile Youth Work (Internationale Gesellschaft für Mobile Jugendarbeit, ISMO) and institutes of higher education.

MEMBERS

AK Strasse/Regionale PraktikerInnen – Jugendarbeit in rechten Szenen in Bremen/Bremer Umland
c/o Jugendarbeitsstätte Bremen, Lidice Haus, Postfach 750664, D–28726 Bremen, Tel. +49 421 69272–13, lidice@jugendinfo.de

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.

Burckhardthaus – Evangelisches Institut für Jugend-, Kultur- und Sozialarbeit e.V.

ISMO – Internationale Gesellschaft für Mobile Jugendarbeit e.V.
Staffenbergstr. 76, D–70184 Stuttgart, Tel. +49 711 2159-265, webmaster@ismo-online.org, www.ismo-symposium.com

STATE ASSOCIATIONS/GROUPS

Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mobile Jugendarbeit/
Streetwork Baden-Württemberg e.V.
Auf der Steig 72, D–70376 Stuttgart, Tel. +49 711 547352, Fax: +49 711 5530970, vorstand@lag-mobil.de, www.lag-mobil.de

Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Streetwork/Mobile Jugendarbeit Bayern e.V.
c/o Streetwork Kirchheim, Münchener Str. 6, D–85551 Kirchheim, Tel. +49 89 904–68533, info@streetwork-bayern.de, www.streetwork-bayern.de
Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mobile Jugendarbeit/
Streetwork Brandenburg e.V.
c/o Humanistischer Regionalverband
Brandenburg/Beilz e.V.,
Schopenhauerstr. 32, D–14772 Brandenburg,
Tel. +49 3381 730383,
streetwork-brandenburg@web.de,
www.streetwork-brandenburg.de

LAG Straßensozialarbeit Hamburg
Postfach 04204, D–20029 Hamburg,
lagstrausohamburg@aol.com

LAG Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mobile Jugendarbeit
Hessen e.V.
Habichtsforstweg 1, D–34123 Kassel,
Tel. +49 561 315655,
lagstreetworkhessen@gmx.de

Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Streetwork/Mobile
Jugendarbeit NRW e.V.
Graf-Recke-Str. 209, D–40273 Düsseldorf,
Tel. +49 211 3610–293,
wuesthof@streetmob-nrw.de,
www.betreten-erlaubt.de

Landesarbeitskreis Mobile Jugendarbeit Sachsen e.V.
Geschäftsstelle,
Blumenauer Str. 25 A, D–09526 Olbernhau,
Tel. +49 37360 69862, Fax +49 3763 498882,
koordinator@mja-sachsen.de,
www.mja-sachsen.de
The Christian Association of Youth Villages (CJD) was founded in 1947 and offers 150,000 adolescents and adults an orientation and chances for their future each year. More than 8,000 people support and train these people in over 150 locations. The Association's work is based on the Christian idea of humanity and the vision “May not one be lost!”.

CJD supports adolescents and adults, disadvantaged people and intellectually gifted ones, disabled and unemployed people and migrants. In the area of child and youth welfare, this is usually through preventive measures in kindergardens and schools, but also covers immediate support for children and adolescents in especially problematic situations. Counselling, support and differentiated types of assisted living complete the Association's child and youth welfare offering. The school education programmes offered by CJD provide specially for dyslexic or intellectually gifted pupils, for top athletes or persistent truants, and is a full substitute for an education at state-run schools.

In terms of professional education, its services include activities to prepare young people for their professional lives, occupational training, advanced education and training, and support in finding a job. People with disabilities are supported in special schools, assisted living homes and workshops for disabled people.

The Education Centres run by CJD offers special personality coaching courses for trainees and junior employees.

The Association's core areas of educational competence are religious and artistic education, political education and sports- and health centred education, all of which take part in CJD’s educational programme. CJD supports young people who have come to Germany from a different country, nation, or culture, and support their integration through programmes that introduce them to the German language, culture and lifestyle. European and international encounters, exchanges, and projects aim at a better mutual understanding.

CJD is a member of the “German Fundraising Council” (Deutscher Spendenrat), of the German YMCA branch and is a specialist association in the Diakonie Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland, EKD).
HENRY MASKE Foundation PLACE FOR KIDS

Chausseestr. 13; D-10115 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 420231–59; Fax: +49 30 420231–60
E-Mail: info@henry-maske-stiftung.de; Internet: www.henry-maske-stiftung.de

The Foundation’s objective is to promote and to support the creation of fair opportunities for the growth of young people by our state and our society, while taking into consideration the scientific and practical findings of youth service studies on the significance of conditions determining young people’s development and their successful integration in our society.

The Foundation especially pursues the following activities to realise its objectives:
- leasing, furnishing and renovating buildings or rooms in order to carry out care projects for disadvantaged children and young people,
- building or co-financing leisure and youth centres in co-operation with public authorities or appropriate youth service providers,
- promoting education, training and socialisation programmes, as well as
- organising and supporting sports and recreation projects as well as preventive care programmes.
IN VIA Katholischer Verband für Mädchen- und Frauensozialarbeit – Deutschland e.V.

IN VIA Catholic Girls’ Social Work – German Organisation

Karlstr. 40; D-79104 Freiburg
Tel.: +49 761 200-231; Fax: +49 761 200-638
E-Mail: invia@caritas.de; Internet: www.invia-deutschland.de

IN VIA is an expert organisation for social work involving girls and women. The IN VIA affiliates, which are located in approximately 70 places in Germany, have amalgamated nationally to form a Federal Association.

In accordance with the association's name (IN VIA = on the way), the Association accompanies girls and young women on their way from school to training and employment, helps them with their integration in Germany and offers assistance for stays abroad. In its activities, the Association supports girls and young women in developing their strengths, representing their interests, finding their way and taking responsibility for their decisions beyond any stereotypical role. The Association is active in the fields of youth vocational services, social work in schools, migration assistance, the voluntary social service year, European volunteer services, au-pair counselling and placement, socio-educational supervised housing and youth education. In some places, IN VIA operates Travellers’ Aid units in train stations and coordinates and represents such activities on the Federal level.

In addition to its national office, the association operates a national further education centre (Meinwerk Institute), an international house in Paris as a contact point for young women opting for a stay abroad, and the non-profit company IN VIA Projects Berlin (IN VIA-Projekte Berlin), which operates the IN VIA Centre Berlin, and an education centre focusing on youth education. The IN VIA Centre is also active in supporting the development of programmes for Central and Eastern Europe and in the cross-border networking of programmes.

The Association’s national office informs its members about developments and funding programmes, represents them on the German and the EU levels, coordinates them in view of determining the Association's position and influencing politics, ensures networking among IN VIA structures, within the German Caritas Society (Deutscher Caritasverband) and other organisations on the German and the EU levels, develops funding opportunities, offers occasions for reflection and the further conceptual development of its programming, and sets up model projects for testing new ways to promote especially disadvantaged girls and young women.

Furthermore, IN VIA is the national coordinator and representative of the Section for Youth Social Work (Arbeitsbereich Jugendsozialarbeit) in the German Caritas Society (Deutscher Caritasverband).

LÄNDER, DIOCESAN, DISTRICT AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS
Contact addresses of Länder and diocesan associations, district and local associations including all facilities are available at www.invia-deutschland.de.
Internationaler Bund (IB) Freier Träger der Jugend-, Sozial- und Bildungsarbeit e. V.

International Federation of non-profit organisation for youth work, social work and training

Valentin-Senger-Str. 5; D-60389 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 94545–0; Fax: +49 69 94545–280
E-Mail: info@internationaler-bund.de; Internet: www.internationaler-bund.de

The International Federation (IB) was founded in 1949 and is a non-statutory sponsoring organisation for non-profit organisations in the fields of youth work, social work and training. Independent of party politics or confession, it operates in a spirit of international partnership and humanitarian aid – irrespective of political beliefs, race, nationality or confession.

The purpose and goal of IB’s work is to contribute to overcoming states of social emergency, true to its motto “Support, educate and build bridges” (Betreuen, Bilden, Brücken Bauen). IB supports migrants, prepares young people for working life, provides grants for vocational trainees, political and social education schemes and arranges international encounters. Based on its self-conception, its work is particularly targeted at the disadvantaged groups of society and at socially integrating them.

The different situations of different target groups reflect in the graded approach to socio-educational work, which ranges from youth activities and community work to the support and sponsorship of independent activity in terms of help for self-help. To help overcome unemployment and the related adversities, to overcome resignation and refusal, it tries to open up genuine opportunities for the future of socially disadvantaged adolescents or young people with learning disabilities, unemployed people, resettlers and foreigners through programmes to prepare them for working life, improve language proficiency and provide vocational training.

Voluntary social services, joint environmental projects and international charitable projects also serve this objective.

The range of services to prepare young adults for working life and occupational integration ranges from courses for German and non-German adolescents, to basic vocational training for unemployed adolescents, motivational and orientation courses, retraining and advanced training schemes, qualifying courses in a training company or training workshop, employment projects, vocational training in companies and external training institutions, and language courses for foreign workers and their families.

Moreover, IB offers a number of counselling and assistant services for disabled people, resettlers and foreign adolescents. Its activities range from youth activities, extracurricular and further education to work-related youth work and social work with girls, and it offers educational support for adolescents in residential homes and offers voluntary service placements in Germany and abroad.

IB’s international activities in the field of education for adolescents and adults are aimed at improving communication through language, encouraging intercultural learning and evoking the concomitant qualities of behaviour. This includes work exchange programmes. Almost 10,000 people work for IB in 700 facilities at 300 locations in Germany.
Katholische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Migration (KAM)

Catholic Working Group for Migration

c/o Deutscher Caritasverband
Karlstr. 40; D–79104 Freiburg
Tel.: +49 761 200–0; Fax: +49 761 200–572
E-Mail: kam@caritas.de; Internet: www.kam-info-migration.de

The Catholic Working Group for Migration is the nationwide union of socially active Catholic associations and institutions in the field of migration, as well as their state working groups. The Working Group is a civil-law association. It regards itself as a contact and co-operation partner in specialist matters of the Commission for Migration of the German Bishops’ Conference (Kommission für Migration der Deutschen Bischofskonferenz).

The Catholic Working Group for Migration was founded on 29 November 2000. It is the successor organisation of the Working Group of Catholic Camp Service (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Katholischer Lagerdienst), which was founded on 24 October 1952.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Katholische Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.
► Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.
► IN VIA Katholischer Verband für Mädchen- und Frauensozialarbeit – Deutschland e.V.
Malteser Migranten Medizin
c/o Deutsche Malteser gGmbH,
Kalker Hauptstr. 22–24, D–51103 Köln,
Tel. +49 221 9822–01, Fax +49 221 9822–399,
malteser@maltanet.de, www.malteser.de

► Raphaels-Werk. Dienst am Menschen unterwegs e.V.
► SKM – Katholischer Verband für soziale Dienste in Deutschland e.V.

LAND WORKING GROUPS

There is a Land working group in Northrhine-Westphalia.
Kooperationsverbund Jugendsozialarbeit

Co-operative Federation for Youth Social Work

Chausseestr. 128/129; D-10115 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 28878953; Fax: +49 30 28878955
E-Mail: kooperationsverbund@jugendsozialarbeit.de; Kooperationspartner

Pooling competence, developing professionalism consistently and providing qualified advice to politicians – these are the essential aims of the Co-operative Federation for Youth Social Work. The organisation consists of seven federal and umbrella organisations, and was established on 1 July 2007. The leitmotif for its work is the division of labour and co-operative approaches. The Berlin office coordinates all activities and PR efforts. When it comes to developing expertise, the central coordination rests with appointed organisations, i.e.

The Workers’ Welfare Organisation (Arbeiterwohlfahrt, AWO) coordinates the activities in the fields of education, education policy and youth work insofar as they affect services provided by other youth welfare organisations.

The Federal Association for Protestant Youth Social Work (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugendsozialarbeit, BAG EJSA) is responsible for European topics and programmes, as well as for the support of young migrants.

The Federal Association for Catholic Youth Social Work (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Katholischen Jugendsozialarbeit, BAG KJS) focuses on living conditions for young people.

The Federal Association of Local and Regional Youth Social Work Agencies (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der örtlich regionalen Träger der Jugendsozialarbeit, BAG ÖRT) is involved in activities helping young people with their integration into employment and provides youth employment assistance services. It also manages transitional problems.

The Paritätische Gesamtverband (Der Paritätische Gesamtverband) takes care of labour market policies and youth work.

The German Red Cross Society (Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, DRK) is active in the thematic structure of youth work and school and the issue of participation of young people.

The International Federation of Voluntary Organisation of Youth Social Work and Vocational Training (Internationaler Bund, IB) deals with integration into employment, political education as part of youth work and international youth exchange.

The seven federal organisations are the main players in the field of youth work in Germany. They act as advocates for disadvantaged young people and raise the general public’s awareness so that it takes note of their problems. As a co-operation, they observe remit-related developments, lend an impetus to progress in certain areas and create a platform to further develop youth work in Germany.

COOPERATING ORGANISATIONS

► Arbeiterwohlfahrt – Bundesverband e.V.
► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.
► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Katholische Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.
► Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft örtlich regionalen Träger der Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.
► Der Paritätische Gesamtverband e.V.
► Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.
► Internationaler Bund (IB) Freier Träger der Jugend-, Sozial- und Bildungsarbeit e.V.
Off Road Kids e. V. – Perspektiven für Straßenkinder in Deutschland

Off Road Kids – Perspectives for Street Children in Germany

Eisenbahnstr. 1; D-78073 Bad Dürrheim
Tel.: +49 7726 91188; Fax: +49 7726 91184
E-Mail: info@offroadkids.de; Internet: www.offroadkids.de

Off Road Kids – Perspectives for Street Children in Germany – provides care for minors and adolescents in Germany, who are homeless, were or are directly threatened by homelessness, and it operates street work centres in Berlin, Hamburg, Dortmund and Cologne. The objective of any inter-regional street work provided by Off Road Kids is to offer assistance to the affected homeless kids seeking a way out of their homelessness and to jointly develop solutions. In addition, Off Road Kids operates a hotline and a phone number for street children. Young people, who do not find help either in their families or in the youth services provided at their place of residence, may be admitted to the youth group home of Off Road Kids in Bad Dürrheim (Black Forest), a co-educational facility with full-time professional care, where the children can work towards school certificates and start their vocational training. Primary target groups are notorious runaways (from children’s homes), truants, as well as girls and boys with an abuse/maltreatment history.

Together with Vodafone foundation Germany (Vodafone Stiftung Deutschland), Off Road Kids developed the “Buddy Project” teaching material. Using the Buddy Project materials, secondary school students learn to develop an understanding and assistance for fellow students from difficult family situations.

Off Road Kids is recognized as a provider of non-public youth services.
Otto Benecke Foundation was founded in 1965 as an initiative of German student organisations. On behalf of the Federal government, it initiates activities to facilitate integration through counselling, education and scholarship programmes in Germany and abroad. The non-partisan association opens a way to a professional future for immigrants and refugees. It has 20 field offices throughout the Federal Republic of Germany.

Starting in the early 1990s, new fields of activity with three components were added: assistance to members of German minorities in Central and Eastern Europe as well Central Asia, development of democratic structures for youth work with the regional focus on the Middle East, Eastern Europe/Central Asia and the development of activities for violence prevention as well as the fight against xenophobia in Germany.
Salesianer Don Boscos

Salesians of Don Bosco

Provinzialat der Salesianer Don Boscos
St. Wolfgangs-Platz 10; D-81669 München
Tel.: +49 89 48008–421; Fax: +49 89 48008–429
E-Mail: provinzialat@donbosco.de; Internet: www.donbosco.de

The Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB) are a religious order of the Catholic church. Their work is based on the notion of Don Giovanni Bosco, a priest and youth educator who concentrated mainly on the education of socially uprooted, unemployed, or delinquent juveniles. His “preventive system of education” was characterised by love and kindness, the firm belief that there is good in every young person, and a holistic approach to caring for young people.

Today, the Salesians of Don Bosco care for young people in more than 90 provinces in 119 countries all over the world. Since the first congregation was founded in Germany in 1916, over 40 different facilities have been established.

The objective “to make young people’s lives successful” summarises the Salesian’s work in a nutshell. Taking the adolescents’ current situation as a starting point, they help them cope with their lives and to become “respectable members of society and good Christians” (Giovanni Bosco). The Salesians of Don Bosco regard themselves as a voluntary youth service provider in terms of the German Child and Youth Services Act (Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz), but also as the youth ministry of the church in the sense of its mission, with a particular emphasis on taking care of adolescents that are in personal difficulty or at social disadvantage.

The Salesians of Don Bosco work in a variety of fields, such as youth work, recreational schemes and education, different school-related activities, in academic institutions, and in the area of youth social work, i.e. residential homes for young people, youth vocational and integration assistance, educational assistance and support for disabled adolescents, in youth policy interest groups, in media and public relations and other worldly matters of the church. In terms of international youth work, the Salesians of Don Bosco foster international meetings, partnerships, and projects, especially through their missionary office, but also through provincial representatives. Voluntary services abroad are also promoted.
SOLWODI Deutschland e. V. – Solidarität mit Frauen in Not

SOLWODI – Solidarity with Women in Distress

Probstestr. 2; D-56154 Boppard-Hirzenach
Tel.: +49 6741 2232; Fax: +49 6741 2310
E-Mail: info@solwodi.de; Internet: www.solwodi.de

SOLWODI Germany (SOLidarity with WOmen in DIstress) works on behalf of foreign women and girls who experience difficulties here in Germany. These women need our assistance in a wide range of situations, they are victims of trafficking and have been forced into prostitution, they are threatened by marriages against their will, they are victims of violence or need counselling because of problems with their residence status or integration.

SOLWODI offers these women a holistically orientated and comprehensive portfolio of counselling and care services. The association is also very active in public affairs so that the public develops its awareness for the situation of these women.

SOLWODI co-operates with other counselling and service organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe against the exploitation and abuse of women.

CONTACT AND COUNSELLING UNITS
A list of contact and counselling units is available at www.solwodi.de.
Verein zur Förderung kultureller und beruflicher Bildung von Jugendlichen und jungen Erwachsenen – BBJ e.V.

Association for the Promotion of Cultural and Vocational Education for Youth and Young adults

Herzbergerstr. 84; D–10365 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 5505–1011; Fax: +49 30 5505–1012
E-Mail: zentrale@bbj.de; Internet: www.bbj.info

The Association for the Promotion of Cultural and Vocational Education for Youth and Young adults (BBJ) is an internationally active, non-profit consulting and planning organisation.

The range of the BBJ’s services includes advice on the conceptual design, development, support and extension of measures and programmes to fight unemployment during their implementation phase. The target groups for the consultancy services are training and employment initiatives, municipalities, counties, government institutions, welfare associations, educational bodies and projects.

In addition to its consultancy services, BBJ also carries out individual projects as models for the labour market and youth policy. BBJ’s approach to action consists of linking and implementing statutory social welfare services and is oriented to the goals of the Child and Youth Services Act (Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz), the Employment Promotion Act (Arbeitsförderungsgesetz) and the Federal Social Security Act (Bundessozialhilfegesetz), to (re)integrate target groups of labour market policy, in particular disadvantaged young people and the long-term unemployed, into the regular labour market. BBJ’s consultancy services are based on the following conceptual considerations and objectives for labour market policies, social policies and youth policies: job creation by a meaningful and consistent co-ordination of labour market policies an structural policies, by linking the financing instruments in the benefits legislation with promotion programmes of the Federal government, the Länder and the European Community, by creating or developing models concepts for reintegrating disadvantaged young people and creating of models for co-operation between various authorities and institutions, ranging from youth offices and social welfare offices to local labour agencies, and from municipal and regional development to business promotion, with the aim of harmonising and co-ordinating individual areas of work.

Furthermore, BBJ is active in international development aid, supporting and promoting the establishment of structures to fight unemployment and to strengthen the health and education sectors.
The Association of Youth Literature for the Blind was established in 1963 and promotes the cultural education of blind or visually impaired young people. For this purpose, the Association publishes a monthly education, information and entertainment magazine for blind young people. Its magazine for the blind, “The Bridge” (Die BRÜCKE), contains articles on current political, social and cultural and other issues, which are selected, compiled or written by young visually impaired editors. On the webpage of the Association for the Promotion of Education of the Blind (Verein zur Förderung der Blindenbildung – www.vzfb.de), where the association is also represented, it makes available the table of contents of the current issue of “The Bridge”.

The Association of Youth Literature for the Blind receives funding from the German Organisation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (Deutscher Blinden- und Sehbehindertenverband) and from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend).
Best Buddies Deutschland e.V.

Best Buddies Germany

Meisenstr. 4; D–14195 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 30 84109253; Fax: +49 30 84109255  
E-Mail: friends@bestbuddies.de; Internet: www.bestbuddies.de

Best Buddies is a global organisation, whose aim is the social integration of individuals with mental disabilities. In Germany, Best Buddies is organised as a non-profit association, and its activities are focused on promoting friendships between individuals with mental disabilities and able-bodied individuals. Mutually enriching friendships help the participants to gain a better understanding for people with mental disabilities. The objective of Best Buddies is to create a world of integration and without walls.

Best Buddies Germany offers three programmes to achieve its objective:

The “Best Buddies Schools Programme” partners a school for children with special needs and a regular school. The participating pupils from both schools are then joined together in friendships. The “Best Buddies Citizen Programme” helps people no longer attending school to build friendships in the spirit of Best Buddies. And the “e-Buddies Programme” offers an opportunity to establish a pen friendship via e-mail.

In order to establish and to continue a friendship, Best Buddies expects that all participants contact each other once per week. In the Schools and Citizen Programme, the participants are expected to meet personally twice a month.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Berufsbildungswerke

Federal Working Group of Vocational Training Centres

Kurfürstenstr. 131; D-10785 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 2300–3433; Fax: +49 30 2300–3899
E-Mail: info@bagbbw.de; Internet: www.bagbbw.de

The Federal Working Group of Vocational Training Centres (BAG BBW) is the national umbrella organisation of independent vocational training centres in Germany, which provide initial vocational training primarily to young people with disabilities. It was founded in 1972.

BAG BBW’s mission is to coordinate, represent and protect the mutual interests of its members. These include the co-operation with rehabilitation agencies and especially with the Federal Labour Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit), co-operation with the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social affairs (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung) in the framework of its competency as coordinator for vocational rehabilitation, co-operation with other responsible ministries and agencies of the Federation and the Länder, co-operation and coordination on basic rehabilitation issues with the institutions and associations involved in rehabilitation on the Federal level and especially the Association of Voluntary Social Welfare Services (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege) and the co-operation with universities, scientific institutions and a specialist associations.

BAG BBW supports and assists its affiliates in discharging their specific duties in the field of vocational training and rehabilitation. It provides position papers on basic rehabilitation issues.

In order to guarantee the social and vocational rehabilitation of young people with disabilities, the vocational training centres (Berufsbildungswerke, BBW) themselves must fulfil the following requirements. They must carry out activities to identify occupations and organise work experiences for trial purposes, carry out remedial courses preparing for vocational training in general, ensure the accompanying support during training and for the trainee’s personal development, teach vocational skills and know-how in a way, which is adapted to the disability and the possibly resulting impairment of learning ability and/or efficiency, offer a wide and differentiated range of occupations, which offer perspectives for development and are suitable from a labour market perspective in order to accommodate the diversity of disabilities and their impacts as well as individual talents, and offer specific assistance to reduce widest possible of the effects of disabilities as much as possible.

The vocational training centres (BBW) are adapted to the special needs of young persons with disabilities and their holistic concept includes training workshops, schools, boarding houses, leisure programmes and professional support to ensure optimum training conditions. Special integration counselling and services assist individual in rehabilitation in their transition to gainful employment and maintain contacts with the centres’ alumni.

At present, the Federal Working Group of Vocational Training Centres has 52 affiliated centres, which offer training courses for more than 200 occupations.

MEMBERS
Members are 52 independent vocational training centres from all over Germany. A list is available at www.bagbbw.de.
Since its foundation in 1972, the Federal Association of Clubs for the Disabled and Friends (BAG cbf) has been an advocate for improvements in the life of the disabled and especially young persons with disabilities. It works for their social rehabilitation and integration in society on the basis of active partnership with the non-disabled. A prerequisite for this integration is that persons with disabilities leave their isolation, are emancipated from a dependent life under the patronage of others, develop initiatives of their own, develop into representatives and advocates of their own interests and assume responsibility for society. BAG cbf’s objective is to enable and to encourage them in these activities.

BAG cbf is a platform for orientation and meetings of 52 clubs and non-profit organisations in the Federal Republic of Germany and does not regard itself as an organisation of persons with disabilities in the traditional sense, e.g. an organisation for a specific disability-oriented group such as spastics, the mentally handicapped, the blind, the deaf etc., and it does not regard itself as an association organising assistance for persons with disabilities. It considers itself instead as an organisation for self-help, where citizens with disabilities and citizens without disabilities work for the solution of problems as equal partners and with equal responsibility.

BAG cbf’s activities include: practical counselling, independent counselling on all rehabilitation issues, further education of young people and staff in the clubs, international meetings and exchange programmes with young individuals with disabilities and without disabilities, exploration and of development recreational and travel opportunities for citizens with disabilities as well as public relations.

MEMBERS
The list of the member clubs is available at www.bagcbf.de.
**Bundesverband behinderter Pflegekinder e.V.**

*Federal Organisation for Disabled Foster Children*

**Kirchstr. 29; D–26871 Papenburg-Aschendorf**

Tel.: +49 4961 665241; Fax: +49 4961 66621

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The Federal Organisation for Disabled Foster Children was founded in 1983 in Münster. Based on the deeply rooted belief that children with social, physical, mental or multiple disabilities are generally not “unable to live in families”, the Organisation has defined its goal as promoting the integration of these children in suitable foster and adoptive families and working to represent their interests, in co-operation with the foster care services of the youth offices throughout Germany.

The responsibilities of the Organisation include national-level assistance in seeking suitable foster parents, targeted searches for foster parents for specific children with all types of disabilities and the establishment and maintenance of contacts with local and non-local bodies, self-help groups and paediatric and specialised clinics. The Organisation also provides counselling services for families wishing to provide care for disabled children, carries out seminars, advanced training events and family recreational activities as well as rendering assistance in finding and/or establishing contacts with youth offices, social welfare offices, health insurance funds and insurance institutions.

Moreover, the Organisation provides information on therapeutic institutions and is a clearing house for information on child care and issues of social legislation. Within the scope of its information, communication and public image work, the Organisation calls attention to the issue of disabled foster and adopted children and their families, working together with the media and with specialised publications, lectures and events, to raise public aware of these issues.

The Federal Organisation for Disabled Foster Children publishes the “right in the middle” (mittendrin) newsletter on a regular basis.

**MEMBERS**

- Bundesverband für Eltern ausländischer Adoptivkinder e.V.
  - Angelgärten 11, D–79206 Breisach, bveaa@t-online.de
- Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Bundesverband e.V.
- FASworld Deutschland
  - Hugelweg 4, D–49809 Lingen, Tel. +49 591 710–6700, www.fasworld-ev.de
- Frühdiaognozszentrum Würzburg – Sozialpädiatrisches Zentrum
  - Josef-Schneider-Str. 2, D–97080 Würzburg, Tel. +49 931 201 27709, fruehdiagnosezentrum@t-online.de, www.fruehdiagnosezentrum.de
- Heilpädagogisches Kinderheim Hamm
  - Heidtherofer Allee 64, D–59071 Hamm, Tel. +49 2381 893475, Fax +49 2381 893468, Roger.Stellmacher@wkp-lwl.org
- Initiative Pflege- und Adoptiveltern e.V.
  - Münklinger Str. 11, D–75242 Pforzheim, Tel. +49 7234 5955, Fax +49 7234 2264,
- Kinderhaus Biene e.V.
  - Taalgilshof 1–3, D–46242 Bottrop, Tel. +49 2041 265920, kibie@t-online.de, www.kinderhaus-biene.de
- Landkreis Prignitz
  - Berliner Str. 7/A, D–19348 Perleberg, Tel. +49 3876 713251
- Mattens Hoff GmbH
  - Dorfstr. 25, D–27383 Scheeßel/OT Westereth, Tel. +49 4263 30280
- Pflegeelternkreis Bremerhövede e.V.
  - Bergheopen 1, D–27446 Sandbostel, Tel. +49 4764 324
- Sozialdienst katholischer Frauen – Zentrale e.V.
  - Sozialdienst katholischer Frauen e.V. – Ortsverein Lüdinghausen
  - Ludostr. 13, D–59348 Lüdinghausen, Tel. +49 2591 235–25
Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung e. V.

Federal Association of Lebenshilfe of People with Intellectual Disabilities

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E-Mail: bundesvereinigung@lebenshilfe.de; Internet: www.lebenshilfe.de

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The Federal Association of Lebenshilfe of People with Intellectual Disabilities (Lebenshilfe) is a non-profit association, which was founded in 1958 by the parents of persons with mental disabilities and interested experts. As a non-partisan and non-denominational association, Lebenshilfe considers itself as the self-help organisation of persons with mental disabilities, their parents and experts. It represents the interests of persons with mental disabilities and their families – as an association of the disabled and a federation of parents, as a specialist association and operator of facilities for the mentally disabled.

The Federal Association defends the rights and concerns of persons with mental disabilities and their families vis-à-vis legislators, authorities and other associations, advises its members in a wide variety of legal and specialist issues and aims at overcoming prejudices through its public relations activities. Currently, 530 local Lebenshilfe associations representing more than 130,000 members offer practical assistance and operate, inter alia, more than 3,000 facilities and services such as early development units, kindergardens, schools, housing facilities and workshops for the disabled. In addition, they offer counselling and information, sports and recreation, parents’ groups and out-patient assistance. These activities support more than 150,000 children, young people and adults with mental disabilities.

In its international activities, Lebenshilfe provides counselling and practical support to self-help groups of persons with mental disabilities and thus contributes to the development of a suitable legal basis.

The Federal Association of Lebenshilfe has its own Institute for Further and Continuous Education, a library and its own specialist publishing house. Furthermore, it organises expert meetings and conferences, symposia and international working groups, it supports research projects and model projects.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS / LOCAL AND COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS
The Federal Association of Lebenshilfe is represented nationwide through its 16 Länder associations and more than 500 local and county associations. Contact addresses are available at www.lebenshilfe.de.
Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe e. V.

German AIDS Service

Wilhelmstr. 138; D-10963 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 690087-0; Fax: +49 30 690087-42
E-Mail: dah@aidshilfe.de; Internet: www.aidshilfe.de

The German AIDS Service (DAH) was founded in 1983. Its objectives were and are to raise awareness and to provide information, to support AIDS sufferers and to actively fight the discrimination against gay lifestyles. Since 1985, the German AIDS Service has been the national umbrella organisation of presently 120 regional AIDS Services.

With respect to HIV and AIDS prevention in Germany, the (non-governmental) DAH develops media and individual communication (e.g. community work/street work) for groups, which are exposed to particular health risks due to HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted infections. These activities have received financial support from the Federal Ministry for Health (Bundesgesundheitsministerium) or the Federal Centre for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung, BZgA) since 1986.

The activities of the German AIDS Service are oriented towards the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion of 1986 and WHO’s concept for lifestyles and environments. DAH is active in structural prevention and health promotion programmes in relation to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, i.e. it considers both the behaviour of individuals and their living conditions. DAH promotes self-help and self-organisation, demands political and societal changes, and advocates a care and service provision, which is oriented towards the patients’ rights and needs.

DAH issues media and materials, which are adapted to specific target groups, provides opportunities for self-help and supports the commitment of various self-help networks. Since 1990, it has organised the conference “Positive encounters – conference on life with HIV and AIDS” for victims, their relatives and partners of HIV/AIDS sufferers.

DAH’s responsibilities as a special-interest organisation also include the training and continuous training of the full-time and voluntary staff of regional AIDS Services. DAH organises discussions of risk groups and patients with scientists and medical specialists, ensures the communication with politicians and authorities, and has its own public relations activities.

The regional AIDS services provide information and counselling to people from all demographic groups. They offer self-help and discussion groups, provide care and nursing to HIV and AIDS sufferers, organise awareness and further education events, and engage in press and public relations activities on the local level.

The German AIDS Service is affiliated to welfare organisations and associations for persons with disabilities. On the European and international level, it co-operates with partners like the International Council of AIDS-Service-Organisations (ICASO), the Royal College of Nursing (UK) or the Working Group for HIV Nursing of the Austrian Association for Health and Nursing Care as well as institutions like the World Health Organisation (WHO) or the European Union (EU).

MEMBERS

130 local AIDS Services are affiliated to the German AIDS Service. Contact details are available at www.aidshilfe.de. The German AIDS Service (DAH) is represented with 10 Länder associations.

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Since its foundation as the Problem Child Campaign (Aktion Sorgenkind) in 1964, the German Service Aid for the Disabled – Human Being Campaign – has adhered to the ideas of humanity and solidarity, the quest for social justice, the right to self-determination and to the participation of all human beings in our society. The Campaign pursues these objectives in two major areas of activity: firstly by sponsoring projects and institutions offering help and self-help to the disabled and by providing child and youth services; secondly by organising major awareness campaigns, which are intended to contribute to an open and positive climate in our society.

These activities are made possible by six million people, who regularly participate in the “Human Being Campaign Lottery” (Aktion Mensch-Lotterie) – the biggest social service lottery in Germany. This trust given to the campaign by the participants is the real asset of the Human Being Campaign. Its special competence is based on the art of allocating the lottery’s revenues in a targeted fashion. Based on the everyday realities of persons with disabilities and people in special social situations, the Human Being Campaign has systematically developed its funding over the years. In this process, it developed a “culture of giving”, which includes clear principles, flexible programmes and reliability in their execution.

These activities are based on an intensive content-related co-operation with ZDF TV Channel and all stakeholders in welfare, social service, parents’, self-help and professional associations. Month after month, the Human Being Campaign gives funds to approximately 500 assistance or self-help projects for the disabled. A Board of Trustees with members representing welfare organisations, various organisations of the disabled and the ZDF TV Channel examines the applications and allocates the funds, which are available from the lottery and from donations. Since 1964, approximately € 2.5 billion could be made available to service projects for the disabled or to children and youth service projects.

The most important focus of the funding provided by Human Being Campaign continues to be on services and self-help for the disabled. Its objective is to enable disabled individuals to lead a self-determined life and to participate fully in the life of society. As a second major funding focus, Human Being Campaign started funding child and youth service projects in 2003. This funding programme is supplemented by temporary funding campaigns to react to current developments and to introduce a social policy emphasis.

In addition to project sponsorship, awareness raising is the second statutory mission of Human Being Campaign. Human Being Campaign engages in awareness-raising as an intensive dialogue, as a project of political participation, as an ongoing search for social truths. A current example is the “Partners of society” Project (Gesellschafter-Projekt). On the http://dieGesellschafter.de website, Human Being Campaign and numerous associations and organisations have asked the question “Which society do we want to live in?” since March 2006 and have thus invited the population to again take ownership of the discussion on the future of our society. A short excerpt of the discussion is regularly...
documented in the ‘Partners of society’ newsletter, which is distributed free of charge in libraries, adult education centres, sociocultural centres etc.

MEMBERS

- Arbeiterwohlfahrt – Bundesverband e.V.
- Deutscher Caritasverband e.V.
- Der Paritätische Gesamtverband e.V.
- Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e.V.
- Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland e.V.

- Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland e.V.
  Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen
  ZDF-Str. 1, D-55127 Mainz,
  Tel. +49 6131 70-1,
  info@zdf.de, www.zdf.de
Deutscher Blinden- und Sehbehindertenverband e.V.

German Association for the Blind and the Visually Impaired

Rungestr. 19, D-10179 Berlin
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The DBSV is the umbrella association of blind and visually impaired people in Germany, with 20 Land associations in which 3,500 members are organised.

The DBSV and its Länder associations offer e.g. seminars, leisure activities, cultural and sports events for young people who are blind or visually impaired. The young people organise the activities themselves with the goal of social and professional rehabilitation and integration. The DBSV has international networks and also offers international youth meetings for blind and visually impaired young people.
LERNEN FÖRDERN – Bundesverband zur Förderung von Menschen mit Lernbehinderungen e.V.

PROMOTE LEARNING – Federal Association for the Support of People with Learning Disabilities

Gerberstr. 17; D–70178 Stuttgart
Tel.: +49 711 6338–438; Fax: +49 711 6338–439
E-Mail: post@lernen-foerdern.de; Internet: www.lernen-foerdern.de

PROMOTE LEARNING – Federal Association for the Support of People with Learning Disabilities (formerly: Bundesverband zur Förderung Lernbehinderter) is a non-profit self-help organisation in which parents, experts and other sponsors have represented the interests of young people with learning disabilities in the areas of school, leisure time, work and employment since 1968. There are more than 400 local and Länder associations with a total membership of 20,000. The Association seeks to develop possibilities for parents to make contributions at regular schools and schools accommodating special-needs children and makes available additional services for the young people’s integration in school, employment and in society. PROMOTE LEARNING is an organisation of the non-public youth welfare system, and its affiliated associations organise educational and leisure-time programmes. The organisation does not only run a counselling facility in Stuttgart in addition to numerous regional counselling and support programmes, it also organises symposia and is present in various entities, whose decisions may have an impact on its members.

LÄNDER ASSOCIATIONS
The Federal Association for the Support of People with Learning Disabilities has 16 Länder associations and representations and thus covers all of Germany. Contact details are available at www.lernen-foerdern.de or are available from the organisations Head Office.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der öffentlichen und freien, nicht konfessionell gebundenen Ausbildungsstätten für Erzieherinnen und Erzieher

German Working Group of Public and Private Non-denominational Training Centres for Educators

Frau Schneppe-Leuck
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Tel.: +49 5404 2603; Fax: +49 5404 950258
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The German Working Group of Public and Private Non-denominational Training Centres for Educators (BöfAE) is a union of public technical colleges for social education, offers a forum for the Land associations/Land working groups of the technical colleges for social education, and its work is independent of trade unions and associations.

The purpose of BöfAE is to promote education and training as well as youth services.

The purpose stated in its articles of association is realised by promoting and developing the training of educators at technical colleges and technical academies. Its aim is to establish a nationwide co-ordination of training and a Europe-wide recognition of educators working in social education institutions for the education and upbringing of children and young people.

MEMBERS
A list of affiliates is available at: www.boefae.de.
The Federal Association of Protestant Family Education Centres (BAG) was founded in 1953 in the aim of developing further education concepts for family-related educational activities and to provide a political and conceptual representation for the interests of the family education centres affiliated to BAG.

BAG’s education programmes are intended for full-time, freelance and volunteer family educators working in family and family education centres as well as adult education and youth service facilities.

In its seminars, BAG presents and further develops new approaches in family education, works on issues of group education and methodology, and provides for reflection on the participants’ personal and institutional context. Its programme includes seminars and conferences, regional further education and supervision. Upon request, it also organises further education events for the associations working in the Länder. At present, more than 100 family education centres participate in BAG.

MEMBERS

The contact data of more than 100 family education centres participating in BAG are available at www.bagfamilie.de.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft katholischer Ausbildungsstätten für Erzieherinnen/Erzieher in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Federal Working Group of Catholic Educator Training Centres in the Federal Republic of Germany

Karlstr. 40; D-79104 Freiburg
Tel.: +49 761 200–227 oder -552; Fax: +49 761 200–735
E-Mail: bagkae@caritas.de; Internet: www.bagkae.caritas.de

The Federal Working Group of Catholic Educator Training Centres in the Federal Republic of Germany (BAGKAЕ) is the National Association of Catholic educator training (technical colleges/academies for social education). It was founded in 1924 and has an office with the National Association of Catholic Day-Care Centres for Children (Verband Katholischer Tageseinrichtungen für Kinder, KTK – Bundesverband) at Karlstraße 40, D-79104 Freiburg.

Its current membership consists of 67 affiliated Catholic schools with approx. 8,500 trainee positions.

Its affiliated schools are located in the following Länder: Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Hesse, Lower Saxony, Northrhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Thuringia.

Across individual Länder borders, BAGKAЕ offers its affiliated schools a forum for an exchange on current political issues, the content and developments in the training of educators and the relevant fields of practical application. It also addresses the further development of the profile and quality of Catholic training centres in annual expert conferences and in its further education programme for school principals and teachers.

BAGKAЕ co-operates with the relevant Catholic children and youth service associations for a more intensive involvement of its affiliated in current practical developments. In relevant education policy bodies, it represents the interests of its affiliated schools on the Federal level. Together with the Federal Association of Protestant Educator Training Centres, it influences qualitative and structural changes, e.g. in the framework agreements on educator training adopted by the Länder Conference of Ministers for Education and Culture (Kultusministerkonferenz der Länder, KMK).

MEMBER SCHOOLS
A list of affiliated schools is available on the website www.bagkae.caritas.de.
Federal Working Group of Protestant Educator Training Centres

Staffelnbergstr. 76, D-70184 Stuttgart
Tel.: +49 711 2159-578; Fax: +49 711 2159-569
E-Mail: bea@diakonie.de; Internet: www.beaonline.de

The Federal Working Group of Protestant Educator Training Centres (BeA) is a professional association within the Social Welfare Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany (Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland – EKD). It represents the professional and political interests of Protestant technical colleges/academies for social education and acts as a nationwide advocate for modern educator training.

Currently, 50 technical colleges/academies of non-public providers, which are associated with regional churches, training centres for deaconesses, deacons’ houses or the social welfare agencies of the Protestant church (Diakonisches Werk) as well as other facilities are organised in BeA.

In addition to its educator training, its programme totalling approx. 6,500 trainee positions with affiliated colleges offers various training courses for social service occupations.
Bundesverband privater Träger der freien Kinder-, Jugend- und Sozialhilfe e.V.

Federal Association of Private Voluntary Child, Youth and Social Service Organisations

Mühlendamm 3; D-10178 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 42859656; Fax: +49 30 42859657
E-Mail: vpk-bund@t-online.de; Internet: www.vpk.de

The Federal Association of Private Voluntary Child, Youth and Social Service Organisations (VPK) is the only nationwide organisation of individuals or groups of individuals providing services for children and young people on the basis of the legislation enshrined in the Social Code. It is structured according to the political/federal structure and has Länder associations, which are supplemented by a specialist association with nationwide activities in the fields of preventive health care and rehabilitation.

VPK's Federal Association considers itself primarily as a non-profit association advising, promoting, further developing and supporting private service providers and represents their interest in politics and society. Publications and meetings organised by the Association offer a forum for the exchange of professional information and positions to all interested parties. In its activities, the Association is clearly committed to a diversity of service providers with various value orientations, to a service- and demand-orientated service program as well as qualitative competition, which will enhance child and youth services in general. It is represented in interdisciplinary bodies of significance for youth services in Germany, where it advocates the qualitative further development of child and youth services in Germany. In partnership and co-operation with public providers of youth and social services, it wants to support and promote the education, training, therapy, preventive health care and rehabilitation of young individuals. VPK supports the mutual exchange of experience between youth service providers and/or healthcare providers in the various regions, it offers professional further education and continues education for managers and staff of all facilities in the respective fields of practice and consults public authorities, legislators and other institutions in preparing and executing laws and other statutory instruments. In its activities, it therefore supports young people in general in realising their right to developmental and educational support so that they grow up to become independent and responsible personalities.

MEMBERS
The Association's affiliates are operators of facilities, former facility operators, senior staff or service providers, individuals, associations and legal entities as supporting members.
Burckhardthaus – Evangelisches Institut für Jugend-, Kultur- und Sozialarbeit e.V.

Burckhardthaus – Protestant Institute for Youth and Social Work

Herzbachweg 2; D–63571 Gelnhausen
Tel.: +49 6051 89–0; Fax: +49 6051 89–240
E-Mail: info@burckhardthaus.de; Internet: www.burckhardthaus.de

The Burckhardthaus association was founded in 1893. Since 1970, it has been a central further education and continuous education institute for the entire Federal Republic, and it has the following tasks on the national level: training, further education and continuous education for staff and especially for multipliers in the Protestant Church and church institutions working in the field of child, youth, social, women’s, parish and community services.

With its programme, Burckhardthaus is involved in fulfilling the community-related responsibilities of the Protestant Church in Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, EKD) pursuant to its basic principles, and it thus contributes to the development of both Church and society. Its courses offer an opportunity for seeking common solutions for emerging individual, social and political problems, which the participants have to confront in their jobs. In this respect, the activities of Burckhardthaus include an ongoing critical and mutual dialogue between theologians and social and humane scientists.

In 2004, Burckhardthaus was affiliated to her German Society for Social Work – Forum for Scientists and Practitioners (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozialarbeit – Forum für Wissenschaft und Praxis).
Camino – Workshop for Education, Practice, Supervision and Research in the Social Sector

Scharnhorststr. 5; D-10115 Berlin
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E-Mail: mail@camino-werkstatt.de; Internet: www.camino-werkstatt.de

The Camino – Workshop for Education, Practice, Supervision and Research in the Social Sector was founded in 1995 and is a non-profit voluntary provider in the social sector. Its fields of activity include practice-related research and development as well as scientific monitoring and the evaluation of model projects and programmes, youth service activities and prevention concepts as well as the needs and living-situation analyses. Furthermore, Camino deals with the development and implementation of further education and continuous education activities in the general area of social work, offers facilitation services in youth service and social planning processes as well as project consultancy and project monitoring. Camino is active in Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony and Thuringia.

Camino’s content focus is primarily in the area of violence and crime prevention, integration, migration and intercultural concepts, youth and youth work as well as urban renewal and neighbourhood development. On this basis, it develops concepts for action against violence and right-wing extremism, conflict mediation concepts for schools and youth centres and concept development plans for youth facilities as well as mobile youth services in rural regions. The preparation of social studies, an image analysis with a profile of strengths and weaknesses, practice-related research and evaluations on migration issues and projects are also included in Camino’s programmes.
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Supervision e. V.

The German Society for Supervision (DGSv) is the professional association of supervisors in Germany and has more than 3,500 members and more than 30 associated further education centres. The demand for supervision traditionally comes mainly from social work, but it is increasingly in demand also in areas such as health care, in business and service companies, authorities and politics.

DGSv has promoted the development of quality counselling since 1989 and issues further education certificates in supervision. To the clients of its members, it is an ombudsman’s office and thus an element of complaint management, and it offers information and counselling on all issues of personal or organisational consultancy. Its website includes a database of its members.

In addition, DGSv organises meetings and conferences with all stakeholders involved in counselling services. It promotes research on supervision issues, supports scientific studies on counselling and carries out various projects for the further development of supervision in individual sectors.

On the national level, it is a member of the network of the German Association for Counselling (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Beratung, DGfB), and on the European level it belongs to the ANSE network (Association of National Organisations for Supervision in Europe).
Deutscher Berufsverband für Soziale Arbeit e.V.

German Federation of Social Workers

Friedrich-Ebert-Str. 30; D-45127 Essen
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DBSH is the German Federation of Social Workers. It represents its members’ societal and professional as well as employment and bargaining interests. More than 6,000 colleagues have joined the Federation to set standards in social work.

DBSH is active in matters of professional, scientific and societal interests and represents the interests of its members with respect to employment, bargaining and remuneration. In its lobbying activities, DBSH especially works for improved conditions for social work, for a professional profile, for a performance-oriented recognition of social service professions and for the co-operation of all experts employed in social occupations. DBSH does not have any ideological affiliations and is non-partisan.
Europäische Akademie für Frauen in Politik und Wirtschaft Berlin e. V.

European Academy for Women in Politics and Business Berlin

Schumannstr. 5; D-10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 28879840; Fax: +49 30 28879859
E-Mail: info@eaf-berlin.de; Internet: www.eaf-berlin.de

The European Academy for Women in Politics and Business Berlin (EAF) is an independent, non-profit organisation based in Berlin. It campaigns for a family-friendly society in which men and women can develop their potential and career while raising their children.

EAF promotes and accompanies ambitious and committed young girls and women in their career path. It gives young women with management potential assistance in starting their job and supports secondary school students in selecting a degree and a job. With the students workshop “It's our turn. Young women for politics and science of tomorrow”, EAF promotes politically active young women. The five-day workshop includes several training courses and discussion rounds with women in management positions as well as the one-day shadowing of a member of the Bundestag.

In order to strengthen the career opportunities of students in the engineering and natural sciences, the Academy founded Femtec GmbH together with the Berlin Institute of Technology. In close co-operation with leading international companies, students are supported with additional qualifications, mentorships and work experience placements in the co-operating companies.

The EAF is also active in research and consulting. It advises science and politics on diversity management, management development and work-life balance and provides its expertise in the field of equal opportunities for men and women, which it has gained though its studies and programmes.
committed youth workers, scientists and educators set up the non-profit Association for the Promotion of Youth and Social Work (fjs) in Berlin in 1990. fjs is a recognized organisation of the non-public youth welfare organisations and aims at promoting creative stimuli and fields of activity in various sectors of youth and family welfare, youth education and social work, but also in the continuous professional education of educators, social workers and educators, teachers and volunteers.

The motto of fjs is that children and youths are not a burden but an asset of a nation in order to shape a promising future. Children need support starting in early childhood and not only as a remedy, when things have already gone wrong. They have a right to promotion so that they may develop a strong character and good social skills. This requires the support of single parents and parents and, not least, the mobilisation of voluntary commitment for projects and the community.

fjs has regional and inter-regional activities in Berlin and in the Land of Brandenburg. The association’s education centre (Academy for Voluntary Work in Germany), the Voluntary Entertainment Software Rating Agency (Unterhaltungssoftware-Selbstkontrolle, USK) and the Helliwood: media division are of particular importance for the association’s inter-regional work. Check www.fjs-ev.de for further information. At the regional level, fjs works to establish ‘neighbourhood houses’, media centres, streetwork and child facilities.
Gütegemeinschaft Au pair e.V.

Association Aiming to Guarantee the Quality of Home Stays Under an Au-Pair Scheme

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Internet: www.guetegemeinschaft-aupair.de

The Association Aiming to Guarantee the Quality of Home Stays Under an Au Pair Scheme was founded in November 2004 with the support of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) in order to improve the quality and transparency for host families and for an au-pair stay of interested young people. The aim is to check and identify a high level of quality in au-pair placements and support this by the recognised RAL quality seal procedure. The observation of quality and testing stipulations is monitored by a neutral test centre. The Association Aiming to Guarantee the Quality of Home Stays Under an Au-Pair Scheme guarantees the consumers a clearly defined quality. The Association Aiming to Guarantee the Quality of Home Stays Under an Au-Pair Scheme is a registered association in which all organisations and agencies arranging au-pair stays in Germany may become a member. The right to display the RAL quality seal is granted by the Association Aiming to Guarantee the Quality of Home Stays Under an Au-Pair Scheme, which is also responsible for the further development of standards and the monitoring of their observation by those bearing the quality seal.

At the start of 2006, the Association Aiming to Guarantee the Quality of Home Stays Under an Au-Pair Scheme had 90 national au-pair organisations and agencies as its members.

AGENCIES WITH A QUALITY CERTIFICATE

A list of the agencies that have received the Au-pair Quality Certificate is available at www.guetegemeinschaft-aupair.de.
The Heidelberg Institute for Occupation and Employment Ltd. has been involved since 1997 in promoting the integration of groups of individuals with disadvantages on the training and labour markets. Its activities are based on the experience of an institute by the same name, the hiba Institute (formerly known as IBAB, Institut für Berufliche Bildung, Arbeitsmarkt und Beschäftigung), which has been active in this field since 1981. hiba is an independent research, education and consultancy institute.

The Institute’s staff are researchers and scientists representing the economic, social and education sciences and contributing their practical experience to concept development, planning and scientific support to education and labour market programmes.

The Institute’s activities focus on the further education of scientific and managerial personnel and on supporting activities for occupational integration, analysing developments on the labour market and in the employment situation of disadvantaged groups, and on evaluating and providing conceptual consultation for vocational training and social integration activities and programmes for these groups. hiba is involved in developing, supporting and evaluating model projects in vocational training and employment promotion.

The Institute develops concepts for further education and carries out further education, consultation and supervision activities for the staff of vocational training facilities. hiba has close contacts and co-operates with scientists, practitioners as well as research and funding agencies. The hiba-Verlag publishing house publishes a large number of printed and digital media promoting occupational integration.
Institut des Rauhen Hauses für Soziale Praxis gGmbH

*Rauhes Haus Institute for Social Practice*

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The Rauhes Haus Institute for Social Practice (isp) was established in 1991 and is an independent legal entity of the Protestant welfare and social work foundation “Das Rauhe Haus” (The rough house), which was founded by Johann Hinrich Wichern in Hamburg in 1833. Based on the experiences of this institution, isp wants to promote the further professionalisation of social work. For this purpose, the Institute develops and realises innovative concepts for its staff’s interventions in their services for young people, the disabled and senior citizens as well as social psychiatry, and it offers qualification and training through expert counselling and further training and education programmes.

isp carries out nationwide model projects and accompanying research studies on behalf of Federal and Länder ministries and works for non-public and local providers of social services. Through its various projects, the Institute also develops its competence in international project work. In co-operation with the Protestant Polytechnic of the Rauhe Haus (Evangelische Fachhochschule des Rauhen Hauses), isp offers an in-service qualification course for social educators/social paedagogues (Contact curriculum: social work). For the past 10 years, the Institute has also trained supervisors. isp’s scientific staff come from institutes and projects, research, counselling and further education activities of public and non-public providers.

isp’s focus is on organisational consultancy and development, conceptual development, facilitation in restructuring processes, applied research and scientific support, evaluation, counselling for staff of non-public and public youth service providers and other social institutions, in-service training and further education.
Institut für Jugendleiter & Qualifikation e. V.

Institute for Youth Leaders and Qualification

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Tel.: +49 1212 512032238; Fax: +49 1212 512032238
E-Mail: juleiqua@juleiqua.de; Internet: www.juleiqua.de

The ‘juleiqua #institute’ was established in 2003 as a non-profit association of child and youth work volunteers and professionals in Germany and is the successor of “juleiqua Initiative” (Initiative juleiqua). Its activities are especially dedicated to the training and qualification of youth leaders. This also includes quality assurance projects such as launching a holiday course hotline for youth leaders during the German summer holidays (cf. http://hotline.juleiqua.de), linking training materials (cf. the “Downloads”, “Weblinks” sections), organising workshops and seminars as well as providing an auditing programme under the “Quality of educational support” (Qualität der pädagogischen Begleitung) quality label. #institut juleiqua runs its own public databases such as a speakers database (http://referenten.juleiqua.de) or a database on issues involving the legal responsibility to exercise proper supervision and related legislation (http://jur.juleiqua.de). It is a recognized provider of non-public youth services.
The Nuremberg Institute for Social and Cultural Work (ISKA) was founded in 1988. ISKA is committed to innovative cultural and social work and wants to propose, adopt and publicise new developments in this field. Its main areas of activity are planning, research, organisational development, consultation and publication in the following fields: day care for children, new volunteerism, civic activities, inter-culturalism, children and youth services and debtor counselling.

ISKA supports public and private service providers through its planning and organisational development activities. It provides scientific support, practical research projects and basic research studies in such fields as day care centres for children and the evaluation of the new legislation on parents and children.

ISKA operates its own practical projects such as a counselling centre for debtor and insolvency counselling in Nuremberg, the MOMO model day care centre and the Centre for Active Citizens (Zentrum Aktiver Bürger, ZAB) for the arrangement and organisation of volunteer activities.
Institut zur Förderung innovativer Sozialpädagogik

Institute for the Promotion of Innovative Social Pedagogics – ifis-consult

Maximilianstr. 5; D-60385 Frankfurt/Main
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Since April 1999, the Institute for the Promotion of Innovative Social Pedagogics – ifis-consult – has offered services as a partnership under the German Civil Code (GbR) to promote and qualify the work of non-public and public social service providers especially in the areas of youth services and social services. Youth services have been provided on the Internet since 1993, which makes it the oldest free professional information service with current articles on issues from all youth service areas. Youth service links and additional services are complementary features and are intended to support social work professionals and youth and social service institutions.

In a qualification campaign for youth service committees, ifis-consult offers the appropriate modules for the implementation of an information and further education plan, which takes the form of seminars, further education sessions and workshops. ifis-consult addresses non-public and public youth service providers. In addition to and in the context of qualifying the operators of day-care centres for children, ifis-consult currently develops further education events and practice-related modules especially for municipal providers. The programme will focus on the various dimensions of provider qualities such as organisational and service development, concepts and conceptual development, development of a quality management system, financial management as well as networking and co-operation. Consultancy to organisations and institutions is another service provided by ifis-consult and includes support during change processes, for personnel development and further education planning.
Kompetenzzentrum Technik-Diversity-Chancengleichheit e.V.

Competence Centre Technology-Diversity-Equal Opportunities

An-Institut der Fachhochschule Bielefeld
Wilhelm-Bertelsmann-Straße 10; D-33602 Bielefeld
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The priority target of the non-profit association known as Competence Centre Technology-Diversity-Equal Opportunities is to play an active role in designing Germany's way into the information and knowledge society. For this purpose, it develops and carries out numerous initiatives and projects which use the potential of women and men to realise equal opportunities in all areas of society and employment.

The strategy of equal opportunities is conditional on the recognition of human diversity, the wide range of biographies, styles of life and skills, and it promotes the full development of the resulting potential and perspectives. It uses these diversities as a success factor in the development of a society, which is characterised by fairness towards both genders and all generations.

The association has focused its activities in the three following areas of competence: Digital integration, education, further education and occupation as well as higher education, science and research. Digital integration is intended to enable equal opportunities in accessing areas of life and employment, which have been subject to technological changes; education, further education and occupation has a focus on gender-oriented planning for employment and life as well as the transition from school to employment; and higher education, science and research develops creative ideas and solutions to support available course programmes in technology and the natural sciences in becoming fit for the future, and it is intended to improve the career opportunities of women in science.

The detailed goals of the association's activities and projects are: enhancing media competency and increasing the use of the Internet, realizing a change in the awareness of professional orientation and life planning, promoting equal opportunities and excellence in higher education, science and research.

For this purpose, the association offers a targeted project and campaign development, event and project management, studies and expert opinions, consultancy and benchmarking, the design of course and training concepts as well as the development of networks.

SYNERGIE Social Education

Bennauer Str. 31, D-53113 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 98164–16; Fax: +49 228 98164–64
E-Mail: info@synergie-sozialebildung.de; Internet: www.synergie-sozialebildung.de

SYNERGIE Social Education is a training organisation that plans and carries out nation-wide activities designed to develop young people’s competence; since 1997 it has provided services, training courses, projects and counselling for young people between 10 and 25 and for multipliers.

SYNERGIE Social Education wants to support and encourage the development of individual and social competences in young people. Its work provides individual young people and youth groups with impulses that are relevant in their everyday lives. SYNERGIE Social Education complements the work of parents and teachers and – in so doing – exploits its advantage of being a neutral and external organisation.

SYNERGIE Social Education is active in the following areas:
- school trips for children and young people
- project weeks in schools
- competence camps for young individual applicants aged 12 during the holiday period and on weekends
- training courses for trainees
- training and further education for multipliers.
Association for Technical Leisure and Education Activities for Youth

Wilhelmstr. 52; D–10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 979913–0; Fax: +49 30 979913–22
E-Mail: www.tjfbv.de; Internet: www.tjfbv.de

Since the Association for Technical Leisure and Education Activities for Youth was founded in 1991, it has been active in combining scientific/technical material with social/education issues. The Association is recognised as an independent youth service provider in Land Berlin, is DIN EN ISO 9001:2000 certified, and has been operating throughout Germany for several years. Principally, it runs scientific and technical projects at various locations in Germany for children, young people and multipliers in the areas addressed in §§ 11 and 13 of the German Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch), Volume VIII.

The “Girls’ Job Workshop” (JOB Werkstatt Mädchen) and the “Youth Technical School” (JugendTechnikSchule) both cater to children, adolescents and young adults aged from 8 to 27. Activities for children focus on leisure time, while adolescents are offered orientation for choosing a craft or a technical occupation, including IT and the media. Children placed in internships by the Association have an opportunity to find out – before leaving school – whether they are suited to the job they are interested in by gaining experience in real-life conditions.

The “KON TE XIS” project is a nationwide project making targeted training and advice available to professionals and executives, multipliers and employees in youth services. The “Technical Learning Workshop” (Lernwerkstatt Technik) offers them unique opportunities to acquire knowledge in the field of science and technology, and to put this knowledge into practice.

The “Barrier-free communication!” (‘barrierefrei kommunizieren!’) nationwide competence and reference centre (bundesweites Kompetenz- und Referenzzentrum) project is a centre for information, advice, training, communication and events and, from its locations in Berlin and Bonn, addresses its programmes to disabled people of any age both nationally and internationally. Specially trained teachers are available for disabled children and adolescents and their carers. The project’s aims include reducing fear of contact, and encouraging the disabled participants, their family members and professional staff to use the opportunities provided by computers and the Internet so that they can participate in society independently and on equal terms (as a contribution to the implementation of the Social Code, Volume IX and the German Civil Code – Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch).

Since January 2005, the tjfbv has run the Further Training Co-ordination Office for Professionals Employed in the Rehabilitation and Integration of People with Disabilities. In co-operation with schools, it offers activities such as nurseries and day-care groups for children unable attend regular schools to complement the range of services provided pursuant to § 32 of the Social Code, Volume VIII.
The German Working Group of Feminist Projects to Combat Sexual Violence against Girls and Women (BAG FORSA) is a national representative body and network of associations and institutions that combat sexual violence against girls and women. It was founded in 1997 and is recognised as a non-profit association.

Its work focuses on girls and/or women who are/were victims of sexual violence. BAG FORSA provides advice to those affected as well as relatives and supporting persons who renounce any sexual violence. The organisations represented in BAG FORSA are specialist departments with knowledge in the field of work against sexual violence. They work on the basis of a feminist concept that fights against structural violence and any form of discrimination in society including the personal and theoretical analysis of the living situation of girls and women with different cultural backgrounds in our society.

BAG FORSA works towards equal opportunities of men and women and fights for the recognition of sexual, physical and mental violence as a violation of human rights and for its ostracism. By public relations and expert counselling of supporting persons, it aims to enable people to recognise the life situation of girls and women as well as the societal contexts and impact of sexual violence on the individual. Its goal is to make adults take responsibility for the protection and support of girls and boys.

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND EXPERT DEPARTMENTS

A list of affiliated associations and expert departments is available at: www.bag-forsa.de.
10.12

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Mädchenpolitik e.V.

Federal Association of Girls’ Policy

Dircksenstr. 47; D–10178 Berlin
E-Mail: info@maedchenpolitik.de; Internet: www.maedchenpolitik.de

Representatives of various Länder associations and other providers of services for girls in the Länder founded their first Federal network in 1999, i.e. the Federal Association of Girls’ Policy.

The objective of the Federal Association of Girls’ Policy is to represent its members' common interests in the area of girls' policy on the Federal level, to create a forum for a further professional development of feminist work with girls and young women, and to support co-operation and networking among its members. The Federal Association of Girls’ Policy is involved in designing policies, introduces new expert momentum in the work with girls and young women, and contributes to a nationwide integration of services for girls in structures and concepts.

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Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten e.V.
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Sozialistische Jugend Deutschlands – Die Falken
Arbeitsgruppe Fachtagungen Jugendhilfe des Vereins für Kommunalwissenschaften e. V.
_Working Group on Expert Conferences on Youth Services of the Scientific Association for Urban Studies_

Arbeitsstelle Kinder- und Jugendhilfestatistik
_Office for Children and Youth Services Statistics_

Archiv der deutschen Jugendbewegung
_Archive of the German Youth Movement_

Deutsches Institut für Jugendhilfe und Familienrecht e. V.
_German Institute for Youth Services and Family Law_

Deutsches Jugendinstitut e. V.
_German Youth Institute_

Deutsches Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen
_German Central Institute for Social Issues_

Forschungsgruppe Jugend und Europa
_Research Group Youth and Europe_

Gilde Soziale Arbeit e. V.
_Guild of Social Work_

Institut für angewandte Familien-, Kindheits- und Jugendarbeitforschung an der Universität Potsdam (IFK)
_Institute for Applied Family, Childhood and Youth Research at the University of Potsdam – IFK_

Institut für angewandte Sozialisationsforschung/Frühe Kindheit e. V.
_Institute for Applied Socialisation Research and Early Childhood_

Institut für Arbeitsmarktforschung und Jugendberufshilfe
_Research Institute in Labour Market Policies and Employment Strategies for Disadvantaged Young People_

Institut für berufliche Bildung, Arbeitsmarkt- und Sozialpolitik GmbH
_Institute for Vocational Training, Labour Market Policy and Social Policy Ltd._

Institut für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe gGmbH
_Institute for Child and Youth Services_

Institut für regionale Innovation und Sozialforschung – IRIS e. V.
_Institute for Regional Innovation and Social Research – IRIS_

Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik e. V.
_Institute for Social Work and Social Education_

Institut für soziale Arbeit e. V.
_Institute for Social Work_

Institut für Sozialpädagogische Forschung Mainz e. V.
_Social Research Institute Mainz_

Sozialwissenschaftlicher Studienkreis für interkulturelle Perspektiven e. V.
_Society for the Study of Intercultural Perspectives_
Arbeitsgruppe Fachtagungen Jugendhilfe des Vereins für Kommunalwissenschaften e. V.

Working Group on Expert Conferences on Youth Services of the Scientific Association for Urban Studies

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The mission of the Working Group on Expert Conferences on Youth Services of the Scientific Association for Urban Studies (AGFJ) involves organising and hosting national expert conferences on new requirements, current developments and problems in youth services – with financial support of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ).

The selection of topics and target groups is determined by the immediate needs of practitioners. A special concern is the discourse between service providers as well as the promotion of discussions between youth service and other professions influencing the life designs of children and young people.

The responsible organiser and sponsor for these events is the Association for Urban Studies (Verein für Kommunalwissenschaften), which cooperates with facilities and organisations working in these fields. The Working Group on Expert Conferences on Youth Services of the Scientific Association for Urban Studies has the exclusive responsibility for organising these events.

The Association for Urban Studies (VfK) has established an Advisory Board with members representing the national organisations of municipalities and cities, local authorities, the Federal states, the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ), the Association of Voluntary Social Welfare Services (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege), BMFSFJ and individual youth service experts. In preparing the content, staffing and methodology of each event, VfK is supported by a working group, which has been specifically designated by this Advisory Board.

The conferences are documented in the series of publications on “Current papers on child and youth services” (Aktuelle Beiträge zur Kinder- und Jugendhilfe). They provide a detailed record of the course of events and contain relevant bibliographic information on the conference topic.
Arbeitsstelle Kinder- und Jugendhilfestatistik

Office for Children and Youth Services Statistics

c/o Universität Dortmund – CDI-Gebäude
Vogelpothsweg 78; D–44227 Dortmund
Tel.: +49 231 755–5556; Fax: +49 231 755–5559
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The Dortmund Office for Children and Youth Services Statistics was established as a model project in 1997 at the Institute for Social Education of Dortmund University. Since 2000, it has received funding from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend), the Ministry for Women, Youth, Families and Health (Ministerium für Frauen, Jugend, Familie und Gesundheit) of Northrhine-Westphalia and Dortmund University.

The objective of the Office is to provide user-friendly access to the results of all official children and youth service statistics and to analyse these statistics from a professional perspective. The Office issues comments on the annually available results of surveys. In a dialogue with Statistical Offices and youth service practitioners, politicians and researchers, the Office also develops proposals for the further development of official youth service statistics.

Consultancy and further education on issues of youth service statistics are also included in the responsibilities of the Office, and so is the (free) triannual KomDat information service. The Office publishes its own books and contributes papers and analyses to specialist magazines and anthologies.

The Office’s programme of commented and processed data is intended for a wide range of target groups on the various levels of Federal, Länder and local government. The Office’s activities are supported by an Expert Advisory Board of representatives of public and voluntary youth services and official statistical offices. The results of surveys are also subjected to a critical discussion with experts in the Working Group on Youth Service Statistics (Arbeitsgruppe Jugendhilfestatistik).
Archiv der deutschen Jugendbewegung

Archive of the German Youth Movement

Burg Ludwigstein; D–37214 Witzenhausen
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The Archive of the German Youth Movement (AdJb) is the successor of the Reich Archive of the German Youth Movement (Reichsarchiv der deutschen Jugendbewegung) founded in 1922. AdJb's mission is the collection and conservation of written, printed, audio and education documents of the youth movement from 1890 onwards. It also documents historical and contemporary youth associations, youth work and youth research. The collection has another focus on life reform movements and reform education theory.

In addition to archiving documents, the Archive's activities focus on supporting the users of the archives and making material available to researchers and the public. AdJb organises regular conferences on topical issues and research activities. Conference topics include the youth movement after 1945, colonialism and the youth movement, reform education and the youth movement as well as the youth movement and the cultural revolution around 1968. The Archive's collections include primarily books (27,000 titles), magazines (3,500 titles), documents, inherited documents, photographs (160,000), works of art, audio recordings, films and objects.

The Archive of the German Youth Movement is a joint facility of the Ludwigstein Youth Castle Foundation (Stiftung Jugendburg Ludwigstein), the Archive of the German Youth Movement and the Marburg State Archives of Hesse (Hessisches Staatsarchiv Marburg). As a scientific institute, the Archive supports research on the German youth movement by exhibitions, publications, conferences etc. In these efforts, it receives support from the Foundation for the Documentation of the Youth Movement (Stiftung Dokumentation der Jugendbewegung).
Deutsches Institut für Jugendhilfe und Familienrecht e.V.

German Institute for Youth Services and Family Law

Poststr. 17; D–69115 Heidelberg
Tel.: +49 6221 9818–0; Fax: +49 6221 9818–28
E-Mail: institut@dijuf.de; Internet: www.dijuf.de

The German Institute for Youth Services (DIJuF) was founded in 1906 under its original name, Archive of German Professional Legal Guardians (Archiv Deutscher Berufsvormünder), was later renamed German Institute of Guardianship (Deutsches Institut für Vormundschaftswesen). Following a reform of child-and parent law, the Institute altered its statutes and extended its mission and remit in 1999.

DIJuF regards itself as a “forum for specialist issues” and promotes dialogue between institutions and occupational groups that deal with issues of youth welfare and family law. The Institute enables participation in this professional discourse by means of providing advanced training, arranging conferences and symposia, and establishing working groups.

In co-operation with the Länder youth offices, umbrella organisations of local authorities, and the responsible ministries, DIJuF supports the youth offices’ professional work by offering expert opinions and legal advice and by supporting children in Germany and abroad in asserting and enforcing child maintenance claims against a parent that does not live in the same country. It builds and maintains contacts in the field of youth welfare and family law.

Other services include providing free-of-charge consultancy on all legal matters that occur in youth offices, advice and support to youth offices in court proceedings, consultancy on developing the organisation and structure of the youth welfare departments and the qualification of the departments’ employees (regional conferences on the topics of guardianship ad litem and youth offices acting as guardians for minors, as well as advanced training programmes in the area of document authentication and benefits in lieu of child maintenance (Act on Benefits in Lieu of Child Maintenance – Unterhaltsvorschussgesetz). The programming is continuously extended according to the demand and changes in DIJuF’s scope.

DIJuF publishes the results of its work in the institute’s magazine “The Youth Office” (DAS JUGENDAMT) and numerous individual publications.
Deutsches Jugendinstitut e.V.

German Youth Institute

Nockherstr. 2; D-81541 München
Tel.: +49 89 62306–0; Fax: +49 89 62306–162
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The German Youth Institute (DJI) was founded in Munich in 1961 by an amalgamation of the Study Office for Youth Matters (Studienbüro für Jugendfragen), and the German Youth Archive (Deutsches Jugendarchiv) and began its work in 1963.

The German Youth Institute is an extra-mural social science research institute. It studies the circumstances and development of children, young people, women, men and families, as well as related state and societal programmes for their support and promotion. Its focal topics lie in the field of child and youth services, youth and youth welfare, family and family policies, continuous observation, transitions in work, gender and life planning, as well as migration, integration and inter-ethnic coexistence. In view of the wide range of subjects, the Institute uses a broad spectrum of different research strategies and methods. In addition to basic research, social reporting and cross-sectional cohort studies, practical supervision, evaluation and model development of measures and programmes also play an important role.

Based on its research results, DJI provides political and practical advice in children, youth and family welfare matters. It organises conferences for experts from educational practice and social administration, as well as politicians, journalists and scientists and participates in the youth and family reports of the federal government.

DJI carries out international research projects, participates in international conferences, maintains contacts with foreign scientists and politicians and supports visiting scientists. Its international activities mainly focus on supporting the introduction of youth research and youth welfare in different countries and the further development of existing Western European research co-operation activities.

Branch of the DJI: Branch of the DJI in Halle (Saale), Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle, Frankeplatz 1, Haus 12 und 13, D-06110 Halle, Tel.: +49 345 6178-0, Fax: +49 345 6178-47.
Deutsches Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen

German Central Institute for Social Issues

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The German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) is an information and documentation centre for the theory and practice of social work, with a special focus on the requirements of practical welfare work. The Institute’s library is available to the contributing organisations and to universities for social work and education.

An IT system for the documentation of literature on social work, social education and welfare work was put in place in 1979. The contents of this database, which is called DZI SoLit, is retrieved by means of individual queries which are run by the public library on site. The database contains scientific documentation on around 170 special interest magazines, a large number of monographs, and grey literature. Users can run their own database queries on www.dzi.de at a charge.

Another field of work is providing information for sponsors on the various mainly donation-funded charities, and granting the DZI seal of approval to charity organisations.

The Senate of Berlin, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend), the National Organisation of German Chambers of Commerce (Deutscher Industrie- und Handelskammertag), the Federal Association of Non-statutory Welfare (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege), and the German Association of Cities (Deutscher Städtetag) are sponsors of the foundation.
Research Group Youth and Europe

c/o Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung
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The Research Group Youth and Europe is active across Germany and Europe as a scientific consulting centre for political education and youth work at the Centre for Applied Political Research (Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung, C. A. P.) of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. C. A. P. links the scientific basic research on European structural questions with specific political consultancy and its implementation in political practice and educational work. The Research Group Youth and Europe is mainly supported by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) and co-operates with a wide range of partners in youth and educational work.

The Research Group Youth and Europe has four closely interlinked emphases in its work: Europe-related youth and educational work, attitude research, intercultural competence and democracy education and promotion of youth participation in Europe.

On the basis of their attitude research, the Research Group Youth and Europe provides advice to providers of youth and educational work in national and European education and youth policy, develops action-oriented teaching programmes as well as model projects for practice and holds courses for multipliers.

The increasingly significance of Europe is e. g. actively communicated in the form of planning and role simulations, youth summits and youth parliaments. This form of European education aims to enable young people to better state their views in the European Union and express their interests to European politicians and decision-makers. As part of the “Junior team”, the Research Group trains young speakers in methods of political education so that they can aid providers in the implementation of corresponding activities. This is based on the approach of peer group education.

The Research Group is intensively involved in the work of various committees and working groups of providers and partners of extracurricular youth work. By the participation in (panel) discussions, by talks and presentations, the employees of the Research Group actively participate in the content-based discussion on youth work with respect to topics such as Europe, participation, intercultural learning, European civil society and multicultural society.

The Research Group publishes its research results, analyses and teaching programmes in the form of books of material, work and study papers, practical handbooks and essays in the relevant specialist literature. A newsletter provides information on the work, seminars and publications of the C. A. P.
GiSA was established in 1925 and is the organisation of qualified social workers with roots in the youth movement. The members dissolved the Guild in 1933 to avoid institutional Gleichschaltung in Hitler Germany. In May 1947, supporters of the Guild met again at Schloss Ludwigstein to take a committed stand on topical issues.

With the help of juvenile judges and educators, the Guild's members particularly contributed to the modernisation of residential youth education, the juvenile criminal system and the training of persons active in social work by organising regional working groups, annual practical conferences and the Guild's Newsletter.

Once a year, GiSA holds a conference on various current topics at national level. A somewhat smaller regular autumn conference is organised by different regional groups of the Guild. The latter, for the most part in co-operation with other organisations offering educational services, also regularly organise local meetings. The older members have come together in the Senior Guild, whose meetings are a platform for discussing current issues against the backdrop of history.

The Guild does not pursue the objectives of any professional or ideological grouping. It rather subscribes to intergenerational and non-partisan co-operation and discussion, which is open to different opinions, critical of social developments and characterised by mutual respect. It is the Guild's purpose to promote youth work and social work and to collect and disseminate knowledge about progressive, modern formats and forms of social work.
Institut für angewandte Familien-, Kindheits- und Jugendforschung an der Universität Potsdam (IFK)

Institute for Applied Family, Childhood and Youth Research at the University of Potsdam – IFK

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The Institute for Applied Family, Childhood and Youth Research at the University of Potsdam - IFK - is a legally and economically independent research institute run by a non-profit organisation and a recognized state-wide voluntary youth service provider. Since early 1991, the Institute has had its office at the University of Potsdam. In 1993, it opened another office in Vehlefanz.

Pursuant to the organisation’s charter, the focus of IFK’s activities is research on the life situation of families and the developmental conditions for children and young people. Its research findings shall enable an impact analysis of social, family and education policy measures and create lead times for critical decisions. In addition to political consultancy, IFK’s research is associated with model projects for families, youth services and schools, partnership and education counselling, education programmes, road safety services and crime prevention or the practical value of products for children and young people.

“IFK’s mission is to promote scientific findings and their application for the benefit of families, children and young people ...” In line with this objective, IFK continues to assist and support authorities, associations, institutions and corporations in achieving their objectives.

In these business areas, IFK co-operates with external partners including federal and state ministries, which are the primary source of funding for IFK projects. In this context, the University of Potsdam should be mentioned and the joint efforts towards bundling the resources for basic research and applied research. The advantages of this co-operation include a higher practical relevance of university education and a higher methodological quality of the findings of applied research.
Institut für angewandte Sozialisationsforschung/Frühkindheit e. V.

Institute for Applied Socialisation Research and Early Childhood

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The Institute for Applied Socialisation Research and Early Childhood (infans) was founded in 1988 and has worked as an independent scientific institute and private provider of youth welfare in the sector of public day-care for children.

The Institute mainly develops and tests early educational concepts, which summarise the results of research and practice in an applicable format. Projects have particular focuses: for example, infans devised an acclimatisation concept for children in the crèche and day-care sector, which is meanwhile used nationwide and, in a further project, qualifies practical consultants for the sector of child day-care in the state of Brandenburg, where it has also established and maintains a support structure for the professionals working there. Furthermore, the Institute formulated a situation description of the crèche sector in the newly formed German states for the 9th Child and Youth Report of the Federal government, and redefined the meaning of education and upbringing in the field of early education, which was later incorporated in several education and upbringing plans of the Länder and has created one of the basics for the reform of early education in the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition, based on this preliminary work, infans developed an pre-school education action concept for educational practice, which was tested in Brandenburg and Baden-Württemberg and was officially adopted in cities in Baden-Württemberg in 2007.

Its current work is geared towards the further development of this concept. Special attention is paid to the specific educational tasks for children under the age of 3, the languages sector of education, devising a continuing education concept for training and further training professionals – in co-operation with external research institutes – as well as the preparation of a scientific evaluation of concept effects for children.

The Institute is mainly financed through projects and development work, which are carried out in co-operation with public institutions (Federal and state ministries, public and private youth welfare providers etc.), and to a lesser extent through the sales of further education material.
Institut für Arbeitsmarktforschung und Jugendberufshilfe

Research Institute in Labour Market Policies and Employment Strategies for Disadvantaged Young People

Haarenfeld 7, D-26129 Oldenburg
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IAJ, the Research Institute in Labour Market Policies and Employment Strategies for Disadvantaged Young People, is involved in areas where labour market, employment assistance to disadvantaged young people and vocational training come together. Another IAJ focus is small and medium-sized companies. The research results of its academic investigations and studies are swiftly communicated in technical journals and presentations as well as symposia organised by IAJ. As a result of IAJ’s presence in numerous bodies and expert groups, there is an ongoing proximity to academic research and practice.

Besides the primary task of implementing empirical research and evaluation projects, further fields of IAJ activities are political consultancy (to municipalities, employment agencies, regional expert groups), continuous professional education (seminars for multipliers in social youth work) and the organisation of symposia (partly with other co-operation partners).

IAJ has specialised in the following areas:
- national and international instruments of labour market and employment strategies as well as education and social policies
- development of regional labour markets; women on the labour market; new forms of earning a living
- age and gender-specific strategies to overcome short and long-term unemployment
- youth welfare, social youth work, employment assistance to disadvantaged young adults; school drop-outs, xenophobia and violence among young people; problems of young adults in the transition from school/training to employment
- new skilling approaches and methods in vocational training and further education; new forms of co-operation in vocational training
- qualification research; methods of ensuring the qualification requirements in small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) in particular; SME research

In the existence of the Institute, a large number of research projects, expert opinions, research reports and studies have been drafted or carried out in the above-mentioned areas and their results have been published.

IAJ is managed by the so called Non-profit Society for Labour Market Research and Youth Employment Assistance Services (Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft für Arbeitsmarkt- und Jugendberufshilfe) and was set up in 1991. Members of the Initiative are university teachers, academic staff of universities and polytechnics, staff from administrative departments and schools and experts from welfare organisations, academic institutions and organisations of youth employment assistance. They all have the practical experience of many years in empiric social research and various fields of social activity.

The Institute holds symposia on a regular basis and is the editor of several publications by the Institute.
Institut für berufliche Bildung, Arbeitsmarkt- und Sozialpolitik GmbH

Institute for Vocational Training, Labour Market Policy and Social Policy Ltd.

Herrnstr. 53; D-63065 Offenbach/Main
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INBAS, the Institute for Vocational Training, Labour Market Policy and Social Policy Ltd. was set up in 1991, and in 1994 assumed the legal format of a limited liability company. INBAS has an interdisciplinary working approach and offers academic services (research, planning, development, evaluation, consultation and continuous professional development) at the interface between education and vocational training as well as initial vocational training, labour market and social policies meet.

INBAS, among other things, focuses on the implementation of studies on vocational training and employment as experienced by people marginalised by the labour market. The Institute is also active in developing and testing concepts, planning, consultation and evaluation of projects and programmes for vocational training, employment and social integration into the labour market for specific target groups, youth welfare and social work at schools. In addition, advanced training, education and advice is offered to the players in various related scenarios. In its development co-operation activities, INBAS is active in concept development, planning, consultation and evaluation of vocational training projects and programmes, in the promotion of the crafts and small businesses, in HR and organisational development as well as social policy in countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. INBAS also develops professional standards, curricula, examination and certification systems in Germany, Europe and worldwide, and promotes the idea of entrepreneurship in institutes of education and initial vocational training. A further aspect of the Institute’s work is the support of transnational networks on the basis of common research projects. The Institute holds symposia and conferences, develops (and publishes) practice-oriented materials (brochures, flyers, hand-outs, audio-visual media) in the above-mentioned fields of activity. National and international public and private political and practical institutions seek INBAS’s services; the Institute is headquartered in Offenbach am Main; there are branch offices in Brussels (EU office), Berlin, Hamburg, Lower Saxony and Rhineland-Palatinate.
Institut für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe gGmbH

Institute for Child and Youth Services

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The Institute for Child and Youth Services (IKJ) is a non-academic institution of practical research in social sciences. The Institute is a link between practical work, science and politics, and has a double role: knowledge transfer into the fields of practice and politics on the one hand, feedback of practical experiences into the research process on the other.

At present, the Institute covers four fields of work:
1. Research – which is based on the topics and issues of practical work and contributes to the political decision-making process
2. Quality development – by means of methods that give feedback on the results and backgrounds of research to the practical field, thus encouraging reflection and initiating change processes;
3. IT solutions – which are demand-driven and fit-for-purpose according to their individual use;
4. Advisory services and qualification – in programmes that are driven by practical requirements and allow a transfer of scientific results to practice.

IKJ caters for all individuals and institutions that are directly or indirectly involved in child and youth welfare work. These are, in particular: facilities and services that provide education assistance, ministries, political institutions, associations, universities, scientific institutions, its clients (children, adolescents, young adults, families) and youth offices.
Institut für regionale Innovation und Sozialforschung – IRIS e.V.

Institute for Regional Innovation and Social Research – IRIS

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Fax: +49 7071 7520-77           Fax: +49 7471 91452
E-Mail: iris.tue@iris-egris.de          E-Mail: zentrale@iris-egris.de
Internet: www.iris-egris.de

The Institute for Regional Innovation and Social Research (IRIS) is an independent institute of social sciences for research and advisory services, and regards itself as an interface between theory and practice.

It owes its foundation in 1988 to a co-operation between the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut) and the Department of Education at the University of Tübingen. The goal of the Institute’s work is to broaden the scientific base of practical and political youth, social, and educational, and employment work. Consequently, the focus areas of the Institute’s work are: the transitions between employment, regional development/regional research, youth research/youth policy, and migration/integration. Against the backdrop of their practical research, the people that work for IRIS support projects and institutions in development processes, has been working in transnational research and project networks for years, and make use of their experience by supporting European co-operation projects.

IRIS is the coordinating body of the European Group for Integrated Social Research (EGRIS).

In this network, social scientists from 15 European countries investigate fundamental issues of social science at a transnational level, such as the changes of individual’s vita and of social structures in the context of a changing labour society. The intercultural comparison aims at raising cultural ideas for regional and national social policy.
Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik e. V.

Institute for Social Work and Social Education

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The Institute for Social Work and Social Education (ISS-Frankfurt a. M.) was established in 1974. Since 1976, ISS-Frankfurt a. M. has received institutional funding by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend). Since 1991, it has been organised as a separate legal entity in the format of a registered non-profit society. Its work is accompanied by an Advisory Board of members from a wide range of providers and professional disciplines.

ISS-Frankfurt a. M. offers the following nationwide services to public and non-public social service providers: applied research and consultancy, scientific monitoring of model experiments and new approaches to standard practices, consultancy for planning and plan development, expert opinions and analyses, organisational development and consultancy, special qualification programmes for project and social management executives, project- and institution-related as well as central national further education and continuous education, expert meetings and expert conferences as well as longer term in-service courses leading for add-on qualifications. Based on its focus on social work concepts, which are oriented to living environments and life situations, ISS-Frankfurt a. M. primarily carries out projects in youth and family services, social work for women, girls and youth (poverty and insufficient socio-economic support), services for adults (adults in special living conditions), with other focal areas being senior citizens services, work with senior citizens, nursing care insurance, drugs/addiction and migration as well as staff and organisational development and organisational consultancy.

The “Observatory for the development of social services in Europe” (Observatorium für die Entwicklung der sozialen Dienste in Europa), which has been jointly sponsored by ISS-Frankfurt a. M. and the German Association of Public and Private Welfare Services (Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge) since mid-2000, will give a stronger European perspective to the future profile of the Institute.
Institut für soziale Arbeit e. V.

Institute for Social Work

Studtstr. 20, D–48149 Münster
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The Institute for Social Work (ISA) was established in 1979. Its founding members were social work practitioners and staff members of service providers and universities/polytechnics.

The Institute’s objective is to link practical experience and the results of relevant research as well as a programme of qualified further education and consultancy. This linkage is intended to create impulses for the innovation and further development of both theory and practice. The participation of individuals from various fields of activity, its independence of major service providers and its manageable size will enable the Institute to react quickly and flexibly to new problem situations and requirements in social work and to address requests coming from practitioners.

In ISA’s practice-oriented research, youth services and youth policy, research on girls and women, youth service and social planning as well as social work and legislation have emerged as focal areas of its research. The Institute organises further education events in these subject areas and offers practical consultancy, which is intended to support the conceptual planning, organisation, co-operation and communication in the institutions concerned.

In order to satisfy the growing demand for consultancy, organisational development and monitoring of youth service planning, the Institute established ISA Planning and Development Ltd (ISA Planung und Entwicklung GmbH) in 1998.

Further facility: ISA Planung und Entwicklung GmbH, Studtstr. 20, D-48149 Münster, Tel.: +49 251 2705945, Fax +49 251 9253680.
Since 1992, the Social Research Institute Mainz (ism) has been active in various research and practical development projects in social work and social policy. Its focus is on child and youth welfare, as well as on the training sector and the labour market. Migration of is a further focal topic.

As a practically oriented research institute, ism uses both theoretical social science/social education fundamentals and study methods; on the other hand, it wants to transparently and understandably shape the study process and results so that they can be profitably used for the reflection and further development of the practice being studied or advised. In synergy with this practice, an appropriate methodical repertoire is used for the matter at hand, which ranges from qualitative and quantitative approaches to organisation and concept development processes as well as specific consultancy settings.

As a rule, research, planning, evaluation and consulting projects are process-oriented and embedded in a communication structure with all stakeholders (e.g. politicians, managers, experts). This procedure aims to ensure that practically relevant questions can be followed up and that the results obtained are accepted, as this is regarded as a principal prerequisite for successful implementation and change processes.
Sozialwissenschaftlicher Studienkreis für interkulturelle Perspektiven e.V.

Society for the Study of Intercultural Perspectives

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The Society for the Study of Intercultural Perspectives (previously: Society for the Study of Intercultural Problems) primarily regards itself as a network for imparting expert knowledge and provides a forum for the interdisciplinary exchange and for the development of initiatives. The target group is social scientists who attach importance to an interdisciplinary orientation and practitioners from the fields of science, administration, economy, politics, educational and cultural work.

Since its founding in 1959, the Society for the Study of Intercultural Problems has dedicated itself to international and intersocietal understanding and regards the promotion of all endeavours for European unification, the solving of the North-South problems and assistance in the solution of problems of intercultural actions as its primary task. It campaigns for a violence-free society, individual freedom, social justice and global responsibility and also supports the exchange between cultures and the intercultural dialogue.

SSIP focuses on the politics of intercultural communication with an horizon on global politics and intercultural education within a society. As an information organ, it issues the “SSIP reports” with the section “Youth politics”, in its series “Contributions to the social science analysis of intercultural relations” (Beiträge zur Sozialwissenschaftlichen Analyse interkultureller Beziehungen) it offers the possibility of the publication of relevant pioneering studies and provides its members with an online intercultural dialogue platform.
SPONSORING FOUNDATIONS AND SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS IN ALL FIELDS OF CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY

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Bundesinitiative “Unternehmen: Partner der Jugend” (UPJ) e. V.  
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Stiftung Deutsche Jugendmarke e. V.  
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Stiftung Jugend forscht e. V.  
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SPONSORING FOUNDATIONS AND SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS IN ALL FIELDS OF CHILD AND YOUTH POLICY

Stiftung Sozialpädagogisches Institut Berlin – Walter May – Stiftung der Arbeiterwohlfahrt Landesverband Berlin e. V.

Foundation Social Pedagogic Institute Berlin – Walter May – Foundation of the Worker’s Welfare Regional Association of Berlin
**Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F. V. S.**

Alfred Toepfer Foundation

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Alfred Toepfer Foundation F. V. S. – which was founded by the Hamburg merchant and agriculturalist Alfred C. Toepfer in 1931 as “F. V. S. Foundation” (Stiftung F. V. S.) – is committed to promoting European integration while maintaining cultural diversity, and to a better understanding between the peoples of Europe. As a non-profit private foundation, it works in the areas of European integration, international understanding, arts and culture, science, nature conservation and youth. Other activities also touch upon the areas of agriculture and forestry as well as the preservation of historic buildings. Alfred Toepfer Foundation F. V. S. is an operative foundation with its own projects and programmes and only provides funding upon application for exceptional cases.

**Bertelsmann Stiftung**

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Carl-Bertelsmann-Str. 256; D-33311 Gütersloh
Tel.: +49 5241 81-0; Fax: +49 5241 81-81681396
E-Mail: info@bertelsmann.de; Internet: www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de

Bertelsmann Stiftung acts in the public interest. It is active in education, business and social affairs, health care as well as international understanding and promotes the peaceful coexistence of different cultures. Through its social commitments, it wants to encourage all citizens to join the work for the common good. The Goundation was founded in 1977 by Reinhard Mohn as a non-profit organisation and holds the majority of shares in the Bertelsmann AG company. Bertelsmann Stiftung is an operative undertaking and both independent of the company and non-partisan.
Bundesinitiative “Unternehmen: Partner der Jugend”
(UPJ) e.V.

National Network “Business in Partnership with Youth”

Linienstr. 214; D-10119 Berlin
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E-Mail: info@upj-online.de; Internet: www.upj-online.de

The National Network “Business in Partnership with Youth” (UPJ) is a nationwide competence network of businesses, non-profit mediatory organisations and individuals with a business or administrative background. Under the slogan: “Social co-operation makes sense”, UPJ promotes long-term co-operation between businesses, non-profit organisations and public administrations to resolve societal problems and promoting a polity, which is fit for the future.

Deutsche Bank Stiftung

Deutsche Bank Foundation

Rossmarkt 18; D-60262 Frankfurt am Main
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E-Mail: office.dbstiftung@db.com; Internet: www.deutsche-bank-stiftung.de

The activities of Deutsche Bank Foundation focus on education, social affairs, music and the arts. Help for self-help in problem situations, the full development of an individual’s potential, active participation in cultural and business life – these are the cornerstones of the Foundation’s activities, whose impetus in all its sponsoring activities always is: to extend the limits of an individual’s experience and to enable people to surpass themselves.
Deutsche Kinder- und Jugendstiftung gGmbH

German Children and Youth Foundation

Tempelhofer Ufer 11; D–10963 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 257676–0; Fax: +49 30 257676–10
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Since its foundation in 1994, the German Children and Youth Foundation (DKJS) has made efforts so that young people will grow up soundly in our country and experience and learn a democratic culture of living and working together. It wants to strengthen children in the things they do and that affect them. It wants to encourage young people to design their own place in society.

Currently, DKJS focuses its activities in four areas – “early childhood education”, “school education”, “designing democracy” and “developing vocational opportunities”. In view of its objectives, the Foundation wants to change structures and launch reform processes: in kindergartens and schools, in the transition to an occupation and in family policies and local youth policies. For this purpose, it also pursues the concrete integration of parents, adult facilitators and institutions into its programmes.

Its programmes and projects want to offer practical responses to burning issues. Solutions are explored with a view to all life situations on young people and together with educators, authorities, companies, scientists and the young people themselves. As a non-partisan player of civic society, DKJS also wants to help in overcoming traditional barriers between responsibilities and institutions.

All programmes of the Foundation are subject to internal or external evaluation. For a sustainable effect, it encourages partnerships between public and private players. In this context, it has developed solid and successful models since its foundation in 1994, and it therefore manages to win national and international companies or foundations for co-operation projects.

DKJS is a member of the international network of the International Youth Foundation. While it was primarily active in the new Federal Länder in its first years and could provide significant impulses for their development, the Foundation is now active throughout Germany and co-operates closely with its current regional partners in 15 Länder. Its own limited assets, which have been further developed thanks to private donations, guarantee its economic autonomy and independence from funding policies.
Ehlerding Stiftung

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The Ehlerding Stiftung foundation works in the areas of youth and environment, science and research and culture. It was formed in 2000 when the “Ehlerding Foundation for the Promotion of Science” (Ehlerding-Stiftung zur Förderung der Wissenschaften, 1993) and the “Ingrid und Karl Ehlerding Pro Youth Foundation” (Pro Jugend Stiftung Ingrid und Karl Ehlerding, 1994) merged. The Ehlerding Stiftung is a private, non-profit, independent and non-partisan legal entity under civil law and has its headquarters in Hamburg. It has its own operational programme and only provides funding for projects run by the Foundation itself.

In the area of youth and nature, the Ehlerding Stiftung runs two special school field hostels: the Hof Norderlück ecological farm for secondary school students on the Baltic coast, and the Schullandheim Barkhausen experimental-pedagogical school field hostel in the Wiehengebirge range. It is also active in the area of early childhood intervention for children with its programme “Early Intervention 0–3” (Frühe Hilfen 0–3). Through an interdisciplinary conference on the subject of “Bonding and networking of assistance programmes for parents of small children”, it established the “with kids” (mitKids) project with various assistance programmes in 2006. The “with kids – babies meet” (mitKids babyTreff) is a low-threshold programme for mothers and fathers in Hamburg’s Eidelstedt district. Its work is focused on strengthening parents’ resources. The “with kids – active godparents for Hamburg children” (mitKids Aktivpatenschaften für Hamburger Kinder) project provides children in difficult family environments with an additional adult they can communicate with.

Since Autumn 2001, the Ehlerding Stiftung has been granting scholarships for what is now Jacobs University Bremen (JUB). The main purpose of the scholarships is to give suitable students from Eastern European countries the opportunity to study at this top university.

The foundation’s “Violence at School” (Gewalt an Schulen) project sought to bring about a comprehensive prevention strategy in the city of Bremerhaven to counter young people’s increasing willingness to use violence. It also supported school groups in the “Young Researchers” (Jugend forscht) contest, enabling children and young people in Bremerhaven to participate in the contest and to develop new entries year after year.
Freudenberg Stiftung GmbH

Freudenberg Foundation Ltd.

Freudenbergstr. 2; D–69469 Weinheim
Tel.: +49 6201 17498; Fax: +49 6201 13262
E-Mail: info@freudenberg.de; Internet: www.freudenbergstiftung.de

Freudenberg Foundation was set up as a non-profit limited company. According to its statutes, its earnings are used to promote science, education and training and to strengthen the peaceful coexistence in society. It is focused on migration and integration, youth between school and employment, democratic culture, work for the mentally ill.

Gemeinnützige Hertie-Stiftung

Hertie Foundation

Grüneburgweg 105; D–60323 Frankfurt/Main
Tel.: +49 69 660756– 0; Fax: +49 69 660756–999
E-Mail: info@ghst.de; Internet: www.ghst.de

Hertie Foundation, a non-profit foundation, wants to explore new solutions in its three sponsored areas, i.e. neuroscience, European integration and democratic education, and it wants to contribute to their practical realisation. The Foundation wants to use its privilege to assist meaningful innovations in their breakthrough and to identify long-term perspectives irrespective of political interests. For reasons of social effectiveness, Hertie Foundation prefers to sponsor model projects.
Human Environment Life Protection HELP e.V.

Kurt-Schumacher-Platz 9; D-48599 Gronau
Tel.: +49 2562 815548; Fax: +49 2562 815549
E-Mail: info@help-deutschland.de
Internet: www.help-deutschland.de
Place of Residence
Podbielskistr. 111; D-30177 Hannover
Tel.: +49 511 26277930; Fax: +49 511 26277931

The association HELP e.V. (Human Environment Life-Protection) was founded in October 2005 in Germany. As a foundation, HELP has already existed since 2003 in the Netherlands, the European headquarters of the organisation. HELP has made it its task to support groups, associations and initiatives that campaign for a coexistence in which great significance is attached to respect of and care for each other. Furthermore, the association initiates its own projects. The focus of HELP’s work lies in the support and promotion of children and young people, but also in the sectors of senior citizen assistance and environmental protection.

Specific goals include the improvement of the situation of children in homes, fighting against sexual abuse of children and young people, fighting against the consequences of child poverty in Germany, promoting the integration of foreigners, supporting older fellow citizens, e.g. by visiting services, as well as the supporting project for climate protection and the protection of endangered habitats.
Jovita – Kinder- und Jugendstiftung

Jovita Child and Youth Foundation

Pickhuben 6; D–20457 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 300698–12; Fax: +49 40 300698–29
E-Mail: info@stiftung-jovita.org; Internet: http://stiftung-jovita.org

The Jovita Child and Youth Foundation was established in Hamburg in June 2002 following an idea developed by customers of the M. M. Warburg & Co banking house in Hamburg. Having grown up in wealthy families, they felt the wish to allow less fortunate and socially disadvantaged children and young people to enjoy the support they themselves had experienced. The foundation’s objective is to offer the young adults of today a perspective for their future. The Jovita Child and Youth Foundation wants to promote and support a sustainable process of active self-experience and therefore Jovita set up creative projects for children and young people so that they can recognize, realise and develop their talents.

Jovita’s first large-scale project is the Yellow Villa Creativity and Education Centre for Children and Youth (Gelbe Villa Kreativ- und Bildungszentrum für Kinder und Jugendliche), was it initiated in Berlin in 2004. There are special school programmes and extensive leisure-time and holiday projects to motivate youngsters to learn through the conscious use of all their senses.

Problem prevention, intercultural encounter and inclusion are very much in the foreground of Jovita’s work.
Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie

Karl Kübel Foundation for Child and Family

Darmstädter Str. 100; D-64625 Bensheim
Tel.: +49 6251 7005-0; Fax: +49 6251 7005-55
E-Mail: info@kkstiftung.de; Internet: www.kkstiftung.de

The Karl Kübel Foundation for Child and Family supports initiatives in Germany and abroad that promote a child and family friendly society, and builds networks and raises public awareness for family-political issues. The “help for self-help” approach is characteristic for the Foundation's work.

In Germany, the Foundation's own educational institutions offer a broad range of services to support parents, children, facilitators, experts, and persons in responsible economical or political functions in their personal or occupational development and relationships. The Families' Forum (Forum Familie) unites projects that aim to prevent negative developments in families. This includes media advice and education, parent guidance and early education schemes as well as the development of concepts and the organisation of “Family Days” (Familientage) in different Länder.

In India, the Philippines and Kosovo, the Karl Kübel Foundation supports charitable movements. The emphasis in India and the Philippines is on the topics health, family, HIV/AIDS, natural resource management, renewable energy sources, prevention of child labour and abuse of children, as well as on education and offerings in the Foundation's own educational institute. In Kosovo, the Foundation supports a project on “Education for Freedom and Tolerance”.

Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH

Robert Bosch Foundation Ltd.

Heidehofstr. 31; D-70184 Stuttgart
Tel.: +49 711 46084-0; Fax: +49 711 46084-1094
E-Mail: info@bosch-stiftung.de; Internet: www.bosch-stiftung.de

The Robert Bosch Foundation is one of the biggest company-related foundations in Germany. It was founded in 1964 and continues the non-profit endeavours of Robert Bosch (1861–1942), the founder of the company and the Foundation. The Foundation mainly focuses on the topics of international understanding, education and health. Furthermore, it also deals with other societal matters.
With the earnings from its 16.3 million Euros endowment fund, the RWE Youth Foundation supports children, adolescents, and young adults who have fallen into adversity or are at risk of doing so due to negative life circumstances. Funding, however, can only be granted for specific projects and for a limited period. The RWE Youth Foundation primarily supports innovative projects that are later recognised as socio-politically significant by local authorities, the Länder, or other institutions and are continued and expanded by them. The current emphases of the RWE Youth Foundation are on:
- Preventive measures for socially disadvantaged/young people who are potentially at risk
- Help for self-help for young people at risk who are excluded from society
- Integration/vocational preparation/qualification of disadvantaged young people.

Funding is granted for projects that subscribe to following goals:
- To develop young people into responsible members of society,
- To promote an open-minded and tolerant attitude towards other cultures,
- A proactive mindset, a sense of responsibility, and the readiness to take on responsibility
- Development through education,
- Advanced qualification for skilled workers,
- To set up educational institutions in economically weak regions,
- To assist disabled people with entering vocational training and working life,
- Social youth organisations of all kinds,
- Activities to acknowledge adolescents’ willingness to participate in social work,
- Assistance for adolescents who facilitate the integration of foreigners.
Stiftung Demokratische Jugend

Foundation Democratic Youth

Grünberger Str. 54; D-10245 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 200789-0; Fax: +49 30 200789-99
E-Mail: buero@jugendstiftung.org; Internet: www.jugendstiftung.org

The Foundation Democratic Youth was founded in 1990 on an initiative of the Round Table of Youth (Runder Tisch der Jugend) as an independent foundation under public law. Its task lies in the support of youth work and youth social work in the newly formed German Länder. The Foundation’s support is mainly geared towards initiative groups and local private providers of youth work. It supports projects, which are tailored to the interests of young people and are co-defined by them, which enable them to determine their own affairs and stimulate them to demonstrate societal co-responsibility and social involvement.

Foundation Democratic Youth’s support focuses on programmes and competitions that combat the problem of the youth exodus from the newly formed German Länder. They are organised by the coordination centre “Perspectives for young people” (Perspektiven für junge Menschen) and involve the two tracks of promoting youth initiatives and supporting the youth programme Time Leaps (Zeitensprünge).

As part of a consortium of foundations, the Foundation is involved in the two Berlin promotion programmes “respectABel Aktion Berlin” and “jugendnetz-berlin.de”.

The Foundation Democratic Youth is the operator of the head office of the Federal programme “Competent. For democracy – Mobile intervention against right-wing extremism”.
Stiftung Deutsche Jugendmarke e. V.

German Youth Stamp Foundation

Maximilianstr. 28D; D-53111 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 95958–0; Fax: +49 228 95958–20
E-Mail: info@jugendmarke.de; Internet: www.jugendmarke.de

The association German Youth Stamp Foundation was founded in 1965. It manages the dedicated profits that it accrues from the sales of the special “For Youth” stamps that are issued every year by the Federal Minister of Finance.

According to its articles of association, the task of the association is to use the available funds to support activities for the benefit of youth. As part of this mission, the German Youth Stamp Foundation may be active in all fields of youth welfare.

The association does not have its own activity programming. It exclusively promotes plans from the field of youth welfare that have special, exemplary or national significance and that are performed by the private youth welfare providers in particular. It may not support regional or local actions as well as projects that are already under way. This also applies to the ongoing operation of a provider.

The financial contributions granted by the German Youth Stamp Foundation are voluntary contributions without any legal entitlement.

MEMBERS

According to the articles of association, the association has eight members, four of whom are from the sector of private youth welfare and four from the public sector. The association is chaired by the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerin für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend).

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Obersten Landesjugend- und Familienbehörden
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege e.V.
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Landesjugendämter
- Bundesausschuss Politische Bildung
- Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend
  Alexanderstr. 3, D–10178 Berlin, Tel. +49 1888 555–0, Fax +49 1888 555–2221, poststelle@bmfsfj.bund.de, www.bmfsfj.de
  Dienstbereich Bonn, Rochusstr. 8–10, D–53123 Bonn, Tel. +49 228 930–0, Fax: +49 228 930–2221
- Bundesvereinigung der kommunalen Spitzenverbände
  Deutscher Stadttetag, Lindenallee 13–17, D–50968 Köln, Postfach 510620, 50942 Köln, Tel. +49 221 37710
- Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung e.V.
- Deutscher Bundesjugendring
Stiftung für die Rechte zukünftiger Generationen

Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (FRFG)

Postfach 5115; D-61422 Oberursel
Tel.: +49 6171 982367; Fax: +49 6171 952566
E-Mail: kontakt@srzg.de; Internet: www.srzg.de

The Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (FRFG) is a non-profit research institute at the interface between science, politics and industry. Through its practice-oriented research, it deepens the insights into generational justice and sustainability. In FRFG, young scholars from various disciplines work on interdisciplinary projects. And FRFG tries to create the awareness for generational justice and sustainability among politicians.

The Foundation is related to the “Institute for a Better Demographic Future – idf” (Institut für demografische Zukunftsfähigkeit, idz; www.demografie.org), which is primarily dedicated to research on demographic problem areas. In its research, it is focused on the three major areas of the ageing and shrinking population, the development of the birth rate as well as domestic migration and immigration policy.
Stiftung Jugend forscht e.V.

Jugend forscht Competition

Baumwall 5; D-20459 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 374709-0; Fax: +49 40 374709-99
E-Mail: info@jugend-forscht.de; Internet: www.jugend-forscht.de

The Jugend forscht Competition promotes extraordinary achievements and talents in natural sciences, maths, and technology. Its aim is to raise long-term interest in these topics in young people, and to support them beyond the competition itself in terms of their professional orientation. The competition is targeted at children and adolescents up to 21 years of age whose place of living and education is Germany. The participants choose a problem of interest, then find solutions by applying scientific, technical, or mathematical methods. Projects have to be associated to one of these seven subjects: working world, biology, chemistry, earth and space sciences, mathematics/informatics, physics, and technology.

“Jugend forscht” is carried out at three levels: in February, the participants enter the regional competitions. The winners enter the competitions at Länder level in March. The winners of the Länder competitions qualify for the national competition in May. In each round of the competition, cash, material, and special prizes with a value of over 900,000 Euros are awarded – research trips and internships or the participation in international competitions, for example.

“Jugend forscht” is a joint initiative of the German government, “stern” magazine, industry, and schools. The Bundespräsident of Germany is the Competition’s patron. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung) heads the Board of Governors of the “Jugend forscht” Foundation. About 250 partners from the economy and scientific institutions host the competitions, donate prizes and sponsor further activities.
Stiftung Mercator GmbH

Foundation “Stiftung Mercator”

Huysenallee 44; D-45128 Essen
Tel.: +49 201 24522-54; Fax: +49 201 24522-22
E-Mail: mercator@stiftung-mercator.de; Internet: www.stiftung-mercator.de

Foundation “Stiftung Mercator” supports projects which promote tolerance and an active exchange of knowledge between people of various national, cultural and social backgrounds in the spirit of Gerhard Mercator. Its projects are to provide impulses through innovative ideas and structures in schools, universities and polytechnics etc. in order to develop new solutions and strategies in education and a peaceful coexistence.

The Foundation supports projects in science, children and youth exchange as well as international exchange. The Foundation provides support to innovative children and youth projects which include not only the school but also the family and social background of adolescents. In its activities, it supports projects, which can trigger innovative impulses. It also promotes the active mutual exchange between people from Germany on the one hand and from Eastern Europe and Asia on the other hand and thus initiates intercultural learning processes.
Stiftung Sozialpädagogisches Institut Berlin – Walter May –
Stiftung der Arbeiterwohlfahrt Landesverband Berlin e.V.

Foundation Social Pedagogic Institute Berlin – Walter May – Foundation of the Worker’s Welfare Regional Association of Berlin

Müllerstr. 74; D-13349 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 459793–0; Fax: +49 30 459793–66
E-Mail: info@stiftung-spi.de; Internet: www.stiftung-spi.de

The Foundation Social Pedagogic Institute Berlin pursues the goals of the Workers’ Welfare Association (Arbeiterwohlfahrt). The SPI mainly focuses on the living environments of affected citizens and, as part of its social work, provides information in particular about helping people to help themselves. Mission of the SPI on the national and the international level:

- Vocational training and further training
- Continuing education of social education practitioners as well as holders of honorary offices and interested laymen
- Expert opinions/statements
- Documentation/public relations
- Contact and point-of-call for initiatives and self-help groups in the social education field
- Support of new social education models and practical research

SPI manages the model programme “Local Capital for Social Purposes” (Lokales Kapital für soziale Zwecke) initiated by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend).
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