

COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN GERMANY



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1. Statistics on young people

Number and Percentage of young people in global population: 17 138 659 (20.8%)

Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population:

Male: 8 725 659 (10.6%)

Female: 8 413 000 (10.2%)

(Source: Destatis, Statistisches Bundesamt, http://www.destatis.de/themen/d/thm_bevoelk.php, numbers as of 31 December 2006)

Number and Percentage of young people with a different nationality ("migration background") in global population:

In a broader sense (*definition of migration background partly impossible*)

< 5 yrs.:	1 044 400
5-10 yrs.:	1 160 300
10-15 yrs.:	1 105 600
15-20 yrs.:	1 176 900
20-25 yrs.:	1 207 400
25-35 yrs.:	2 672 200

In a narrower sense

< 5 yrs.:	1 160 300
5-10 yrs.:	1 083 000
10-15 yrs.:	1 029 700
15-20 yrs.:	1 108 800
20-25 yrs.:	1 135 800
25-35 yrs.:	2 547 400

(Source: *Bevölkerung und Erwerbstätigkeit. Bevölkerung mit Migrationshintergrund. Ergebnisse des Mikrozensus 2005*, https://www-ec.destatis.de/csp/shop/sfg/bpm.html.cms.cBroker.cls?cmspath=struktur_vollanzeige.csp&ID=1020312)

2. Actors and Structures

2.1 Public authorities

2.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth: **Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth** (*Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend*, <http://www.bmfsfj.de>)

- Minister: Dr. Ursula von der Leyen

- Duration of mandate: 48 months (until 2009)

Youth Department in the Ministry (193 words)

- Main tasks of the Youth department:

The Youth department is in charge of federal laws concerning youth, for example: Social Code, Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child and Youth Services and the Protection of Young People Act. It represents the interests of children and youth in all areas of policy, mainly in the areas of education, health and labour market as a cross-sectional task maintaining close contact to other ministries, the federal states (*Länder*) and municipalities as well as to organisations of public youth services. The department supports and promotes supraregional and federal non-statutory organisations in the field of child and youth services in their wide variety of value orientations, contents, methods and forms of work. It takes part in the further development and implementation of European youth programmes and asks independent experts to inform about the situation of young people in Germany and supports respective research projects.

- Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department: 80
- Director-General responsible for Youth in the Ministry: Karin Reiser, info@bmfsfj.service.bund.de
- Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy: Barbara Wurster, info@bmfsfj.service.bund.de

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies (386 words)

- Other Ministries:

The following ministries deal, sometimes only in smaller areas, with children and youth support or are responsible for questions that could be relevant for children and young people:

Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, <http://www.bmas.bund.de>

Federal Ministry of Health, <http://www.bmg.bund.de>

Federal Ministry of Education and Research, <http://www.bmbf.bund.de>

Foreign Office of the Federal German Government, <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de>

Federal Ministry of the Interior, <http://www.bmi.bund.de>

Federal Ministry of Justice, <http://www.bmj.bund.de>

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, <http://www.bmz.bund.de>

Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, <http://www.bmvbs.bund.de>

- Offices:

The **Commission of Experts for the Child and Youth Report of the Federal Government**

(*Sachverständigenkommission für den Kinder- und Jugendbericht*,

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/Kategorien/aktuelles.did=16232.html>) consists of representatives from

universities, non-statutory organisations in the field of child and youth services and cities and

towns. Composition of commission changes with each report. Report focuses on one specific topic

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in each legislative period (2007/2008: Health-Related Prevention and Health Promotion in Child and Youth Services – Working title).

The **Federal Advisory Committee on Youth Problems** (*Bundesjugendkuratorium*, <http://www.bundesjugendkuratorium.de>) advises the Federal government in basic questions of youth services (as laid down in Social Code Volume Eight Child and Youth Services) and in cross-sectional tasks of child and youth policy. 15 youth service experts are called into the Committee for one parliamentary session. In its activity the Committee takes position with and gives recommendations with regard to present priorities in the child and youth policy of the Federal government. Furthermore, it proposes topics where it thinks that action is needed.

The **Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons** (*Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Medien*, <http://www.bundespruefstelle.de>) is an official administrative authority of the German government. Its task is to protect children and adolescents in Germany from any media which might contain harmful or dangerous contents. This work is authorized by the "Protection of Young People Act".

The **Federal Office for the Alternative Civilian Service** (*Bundesamt für den Zivildienst*, <http://www.zivildienst.de>) is in charge of the correct implementation of the application process of conscientious objection and the alternative civilian service. It is responsible for recruiting, taking care of and educating conscientious objectors.

The three **municipal leading associations at national level** actively represent the interests of their members, the towns, municipalities and administrative districts towards the Federal Government, Federal Parliament (*Bundestag*), the Federal Council (*Bundesrat*), European Union (*Ausschuss der Regionen*, <http://www.cor.europa.eu>) and many organisations, associations and institutions:

- **German Association of Cities and Towns** (*Deutscher Städtetag*, <http://www.staedtetag.de>)
- **German Association of Towns and Municipalities** (*Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund*, <http://www.dstgb.de>)
- **German County Association** (*Deutscher Landkreistag*, <http://www.landkreistag.de>)

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

- Name: **Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth at the German Federal Parliament** (*Ausschuss für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend im Bundestag*, <http://www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a13/index.html>)
- Name of President / Chair: Kerstin Griese, familienausschuss@bundestag.de
- Role and Competence: Deals with bills/applications, reports, resolutions/EU bills in overall control or co-advisory capacity; controls governmental activities of Federal Ministry in charge of youth as parliamentary authority. Focus in terms of youth: strengthening children's rights/participation/youth/youth media protection; fighting trade in child prostitution/sex tourism

- Name: **Commission for the Perception of Children's Needs** (*Kinderkommission*, <http://www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a13/kiko/index.html>)
- Name of President / Chair: Miriam Gruß (chair changes regularly), kinderkommission@bundestag.de
- Role and Competence: Sub-committee of Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Lobby of children in parliament (for more children's rights, child protection in advertising, fighting against child pornography). Examines federal law regulations for effects on children, suggests amendments

2.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

The **Conference of Youth and Family Ministers** (*Jugend- und Familienministerkonferenz*) is an expert body consisting of the ministers and senators in charge of child, youth and family policy of the federal states (*Länder*). It stimulates and promotes statutory and voluntary youth service organisations, the further development of youth services in the areas of youth work, the work of youth associations, work with girls, children and young people with a migrant background, participation, youth social work, youth vocational training services, child and youth protection, raising children in the family, children in day care centres and daily care, putting people into and removing from care; guardianship, family and juvenile justice assistance services, adoption and adoption assistance, care and statutory guardianship. The Conference works towards an equal development of institutions and programmes and supports local youth offices and youth offices of the federal states. In the framework of the Conference of Youth and Family Ministers legal questions of the youth service, specialist youth service policy questions as well as youth political questions are decided upon and corresponding resolutions passed. The Chair of the Conference changes regularly, in 2007 it rests with the Brandenburg Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports (*Ministerium für Bildung, Jugend und Sport des Landes Brandenburg*, <http://www.jfmk.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php/lbm1.c.384353.de>). The Chairperson represents the Conference at European level (European Union and Council of Europe). In its work, the Conference of the Youth and Family Ministers is supported by the **Working Party of the Highest Youth and Family Authorities of the Federal States** (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft der obersten Landesjugend- und Familienbehörden*, <http://www.jfmk.brandenburg.de/sixcms/detail.php/lbm1.c.385583.de>).

The **Working Party of the Youth Offices of the Federal States** (*Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Landesjugendämter*, <http://www.bagljae.de>) is an amalgamation of the 17 youth offices of the federal states which carry out cross-sectoral work in their respective catchment areas. These tasks are, for example, the further training of staff in youth services, counselling assistance for the local youth offices and the organisations of voluntary youth services, protection of children and young people in institutions, planning, stimulation, promotion and running pilot programmes and the

further development of the youth service. Board elections take place every 4 years; in 2007 the chair is with the Bavarian Youth Office (*Bayerisches Landesjugendamt*).

2.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

At local level, the **municipal youth office** is the central institution of child/youth services. A difference is made between the Administrative District Youth Office (administrative district level), Town Youth Office (towns which are administrative districts in their own right), "Regionalised Youth Office" (in a municipality belonging to an administrative district) as well as District Youth Offices (in the districts of the city states). The Youth Offices (*Jugendämter*) have been given the authority of carrying out/guaranteeing the tasks and services laid down in the Social Code Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child and Youth Services. It rules that the work of the youth office will be carried out by the Committee for Youth Services and the administration of the youth office. The administration of the youth office carries out the resolutions/laws with the specialist competence of its staff. The Committee for Youth Services (*Jugendhilfeausschuss*) has the steering function of child and youth services at local level, is concerned with all matters of youth services especially with the discussion of current problems of young people and their families as well as ideas/suggestions for the further development of youth services, youth assistance planning and the promotion of voluntary youth services. Its structure is based on the intention of establishing far-reaching participation of knowledgeable citizens. Representation of child/youth political interests in youth services committees has a central role. Youth services committees are responsible for the youth services planning (*Jugendhilfeplanung*) and are the turntable for the establishment/promotion/modification of offers in child and youth services. Youth services include:

- Programmes: of youth work, youth social work, educational child/youth protection; to promote the raising of children in the family; to promote children in day care centres/day care;
- Assistance for: raising children and complementary services; psychologically damaged children/young people and complementary services; young people over 18 and after care;
- Taking into care of children/young people (temporary accommodation with a suitable person);
- Removal of a child/young person from their residential environment;
- Playing a part in the procedures of the guardianship/family courts/according to the youth court law;
- Counselling/explanation in child adoption procedures;
- Advising/supporting foster parents/guardians;
- others.

2.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

- The **Child and Youth Welfare Association** (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe*, AGJ, <http://www.agj.de>), founded in 1949, was given its present name in 2006. It is an amalgamation of central federal youth organisations and regional youth councils, leading voluntary social welfare organisations, central specialist organisations, main youth authorities of the federal states (ministries), youth offices of the federal states. AGJ works at various levels: it lobbies the legislative and the executive branches of government with statements, recommendations and reports based on joint evaluated findings of the members. By making recommendations and proposals on child and youth services and by organising events of various kinds, the AGJ continuously acts towards improving conditions in the practical area of child and youth services. It holds specialist conferences and congresses both for experts and the public involved in this kind of work. Since 1995 the AGJ has been the legal entity and executive director of the National Coalition (*National Coalition für die Umsetzung der Rechte der Kinder in Deutschland*) founded to implement children's rights in Germany.

- The **Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People** (*Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz*, BAJ, <http://www.bag.jugendschutz.de>) was founded in 1951 under the name Federal Association for Action to Protect Children (*Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Aktion Jugendschutz*). It is an amalgamation of leading welfare organisations, youth associations and individuals which defend the interests of children and young people within the framework of legislation to actively protect children and young people. At national level, the BAJ represents the rights of children and young people in politics and society independent of party politics or religious denomination.

2.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

Mention and describe non-public actors/structures who are directly or indirectly involved in youth policies, and have influence in the policy-making process and in the decision making process.

2.3.1 Youth councils

The National Youth Council is the **German Federal Youth Council** (*Deutscher Bundesjugendring*, DBJR, <http://www.dbjr.de>). Its current membership (<http://www.dbjr.de/index.php?m=1&id=22>) includes 24 youth organisations, 16 regional youth councils and 5 affiliated organisations. The 5 affiliated organisations have an advisory vote. Role and objectives:

- to publicly represent youth interests and common aims of the member organisations, particularly to parliament and government;
- to ensure an ongoing information flow between member organisations and to enable them to achieve common positions on youth policy;

- to cooperate with youth organisations outside Germany, particularly in the area of international youth policy.

To fulfil the above tasks, the German Federal Youth Council participates in commissions and working groups, makes statements on laws and National Youth Reports, adopts public positions on topical issues connected with youth work and youth policy and publishes a quarterly periodical entitled “Jugendpolitik” (Youth policy”). Along with committee meetings and related working groups, the German Federal Youth Council runs different information services to increase the information flow between member organisations. The German Federal Youth Council has direct cooperation with other national youth councils, i.e. with the National Youth Council of France, Russia and Israel. Besides these bilateral contacts, the German Federal Youth Council, together with the Council of Political Youth Organisations (RPJ) and the German Sports Youth (dsj), forms the German National Committee for International Youth Work (*Deutsches Nationalkomitee für internationale Jugendarbeit*, DNK, <http://www.dbjr.de/index.php?m=17&id=99>), which maintains and nurtures contact with youth structures around the world. An important task of DNK's work is working together with youth organisations in Europe. DNK is a member of the European Youth Forum and the Baltic Youth Forum and also cooperates with the United Nations. Furthermore DNK is part a regional cooperation between the Youth Councils from Austria, Flanders, Great Britain, Ireland, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and Switzerland called the “Bodensee-Benelux+-Cooperation” (BBC+).

There are 16 **regional youth councils** (*Landesjugendringe*). Those regional youth councils are associations of youth organisations actively working on regional level. They are made up of independent youth associations with a total membership of about 5 million people whose activities are accessible to about 70 % of all children and young people. All relevant youth organisations are represented here: ecclesiastical organisations, trade union associations, those with humanitarian or socialist orientations, ecologically active ones, fostering traditions or committed to equal sexual orientations.

Bavarian Youth Council, <http://www.bjr.de>

Youth Council of Bremen/Regional Working Party of Youth Organisations in Bremen, <http://www.bremerjugendring.de>

Youth Council of Hesse, <http://www.hessischer-jugendring.de>

Children and Youth Council of Saxony, <http://www.jugendinfo.net>

Children and Youth Council of Saxony-Anhalt, <http://www.kjr-lsa.de>

Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, <http://www.ljrsh.de>

Regional Youth Council of Baden-Württemberg, <http://www.ljrbw.de>

Berlin Regional Youth Council, <http://www.ljrberlin.de>

Regional Youth Council Brandenburg, <http://www.ljr-brandenburg.de>

Hamburg Regional Youth Council, <http://www.ljr-hh.de>

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Regional Youth Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, <http://www.jugend.inmv.de>

Regional Youth Council of Lower Saxony, <http://www.ljr.de>

Regional Youth Council of North Rhine-Westphalia, <http://www.ljr-nrw.de>

Regional Youth Council of Rhineland-Palatinate, <http://www.ljr-rlp.de>

Regional Youth Council of the Saarland, <http://www.landesjugendring-saar.de>

Regional Youth Council of Thuringia, <http://www.landesjugendring-thueringen.de>

There is also a great number of **local youth councils** (*Kreis-/Stadtjugendringe*). Local youth councils are self-organised amalgamations of local youth associations, organisations and initiatives. Their goal is to represent children's and young people's interests before public, policy and administration, to help shape and back the general framework of youth (associative) work and, on behalf of the children and young people, to take a stand with regard to socio-political questions and questions relevant to youth. Youth councils represent the youth associations' demands before the committees and institutions responsible for youth issues on local level, especially in the so called Committees for Youth Services (*Jugendhilfeausschuss*) of the urban districts and the counties. To provide an example, there are about 134 local youth councils (<http://p25847.typo3server.info/index.php?id=stadt-undkreisjugendringe>) in the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia (biggest federal state according to population).

2.3.2 Youth NGOs

Other big youth NGO's that are not members of the National Youth Council are:

Council of Political Youth Organisations. Serves to represent the concerns of party political youth organisations.

Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People,

<http://www.bag.jugendschutz.de>. Amalgamation of leading welfare organisations, youth associations and individuals which defend the interests of children and young people within the framework of legislation to actively protect children and young people.

German Sports Youth, <http://www.dsj.de>. Youth organisation of the German Sports Federation.

German Federation of Associations for Cultural Child and Youth Education,

<http://www.bkj.de>. Amalgamation of 48 nationwide organisations specialising in the cultural education of children and young people.

International Federation of Voluntary Associations of Youth Social Work and Vocational Training, <http://www.internationaler-bund.de>. Make a contribution to overcoming social problems by offering help in integration, undertaking measures facilitating entry into professional and working life, grants for vocational training, political and social education and international encounters.

IJAB - International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany, <http://www.ijab.de>.

Central specialist agency for international youth policy, international youth work and youth information.

Maltese Youth, <http://www.malteser.de> > *Malteser Jugend*. Concentrates on active work which includes education, leisure time activities, Maltese specific training and social services.

Youth of the Technical Relief Association, <http://www.thw-jugend.de>. Provides technical training to young people between the ages of 10 and 18 using fun methods.

German Youth Hostel Association, <http://www.djh.de>. Central Association for Youth Hiking and Youth Hostels.

Federal Forum for Child and Youth Travel, <http://www.bundesforum.de>. Merger of national umbrella organisations, associations and societies who make shared quality criteria the basis of child and youth travel.

2.4 Other structures

Expert groups, permanent networks etc. Please mention permanent structures in the field of youth research; (Example: Researchers or research groups who are regularly involved or consulted in youth related topics on a national or regional level)

- **German Youth Institute** (*Deutsches Jugendinstitut*, <http://www.dji.de>). Non-university institute acting in the field of socio-scientific research. Investigates the situation of children, adolescents, women, men and families as well as what kind of support and advancement measures the state and society have to offer them. Main focus of its work: children and child care, youth work and youth services, family and family policy, gender research and women's policy, social monitoring as well as transition to work.

- **Research Group Youth and Europe** (*Forschungsgruppe Jugend und Europa*, <http://www.cap-lmu.de/fgje/index.php>) at the Centre for Applied Political Research (C.A.P) of the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich. Scientific counselling centre active at national and European level. Sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Cooperates with various partners in youth and education work.

- **Researcher-Practitioner-Dialogue on International Youth Work** (*Forscher-Praktiker-Dialog Internationale Jugendarbeit*, <http://www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de>). Organises/facilitates interdisciplinary/inter-organisational discourse between social sciences & programme practice in international exchanges.

- **Social Scientific Study Circle for Intercultural Perspectives** (*Sozialwissenschaftlicher Studienkreis für interkulturelle Perspektiven e. V.*, <http://www.ssjp-web.de>). Network for passing on expert knowledge. Forum for interdisciplinary exchange/development of initiatives: Targeted at social scientists/practitioners in administration, business, politics, culture, education.

3. Legislation

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

- Article 5 Freedom of expression

(2) These rights shall find their limits in...provisions for the protection of young persons...

- Article 11 Freedom of movement

(2) This right may be restricted only by or pursuant to a law, and only in cases...in which such restriction is necessary to...protect young persons from serious neglect...

- Article 12a (Compulsory military or alternative service)

(1) Men who have attained the age of eighteen may be required to serve in the Armed Forces, in the Federal Border Police, or in a civil defence organisation.

(2) Any person who, on grounds of conscience, refuses to render military service involving the use of arms may be required to perform alternative service...

- Article 13 (Inviolability of the home) (7) Interferences and restrictions shall otherwise only be permissible to...protect young persons at risk.

National legislation on youth

General laws as the German Civil Code, German Penal Code, and Federal Social Assistance Act are of particular significance to children, young people and families. Laws dealing with the specific problems of children and young people are:

- Act on Further Improvement of Children's Rights
- Act on Legal Protection of Pregnant and Nursing Mothers
- Act on Conscientious Objection
- Act on Extension of Day Care Centres (Child Day-Care Expansion Act, TAG)
- Act on Further Development of Child and Youth Services
- Amendment to the Promotion of the Voluntary Social Year Act and other Acts
- Alternative Civilian Service Act
- Adoption Procedures and Implementation Act
- Childhood Rights
- Compulsory Non-military National Service Act
- Distance Learning Protection Act
- Employee Protection Act
- Equal Rights Act
- Equality for the Disabled Act
- Federal Child Benefit Act
- Federal Child Raising Benefit Act
- Federal Education Support Act
- Firearms Act
- Job-AQTIV Act
- Juvenile Court Act
- Life Partnership Act
- Narcotics Act

- Overseas Development Aid Act
- Pregnancy and Family Assistance Reform Act
- Promotion of Further Education for Occupational Advancement Act
- Prostitution Act
- Protection of Young People Act
- Protection of Young People at Work Act
- Statutory Order Concerning the Protection of Children at Work
- Violence Protection Act
- Vocational Training Act
- Vocational Training Assistance Act
- Volume Eight (Social Code) Child and Youth Services

Regional and local legislation on youth

The SGB VIII (Volume Eight - Social Code - Child and Youth Services) gives the overall responsibility for child and youth services to the administrative districts (counties) and towns which are administrative districts in their own right. They are obliged to set up a youth office. The law also offers a system of services in partnership cooperation between statutory and voluntary local organisations of child and youth services.

The organisational unit at local level is the municipal youth office as the central institution of child and youth services. It belongs to the administrative level. A difference is made between the Administrative District Youth Office (administrative district level), Town Youth Office (towns which are administrative districts in their own right), "Regionalised Youth Office" (in a municipality belonging to an administrative district) as well as District Youth Offices (in the districts of the city states).

The Youth Offices (*Jugendämter*) refer to the SGB VIII in their work and have the authority to carry out and guarantee the tasks and services laid down in the SGB VIII. The work of the youth office will be carried out by the Committee for Youth Services and the administration of the youth office. The administration of the youth office carries out the resolutions and laws with the specialist competence of its staff. The Committee for Youth Services (*Jugendhilfeausschuss*) has the steering function of child and youth services at local level.

4. National Programmes on youth

Name and describe the national programmes on youth

Child and youth policy is a cross-sectional responsibility with the aim of developing situation and social space oriented improvement processes by a stronger networking of the different support

concepts and by the development of new forms of cooperation between all those involved at different levels. Central funding mechanism for child and youth policy and child and youth services: **Child and Youth Plan of the Federation** (*Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes*) with its range of area of support, including political/cultural/social education, sport, youth social work, equality of girls and boys/work with girls and boys, young people with disabilities, assistance for young people and families, assistance for children, protection of children and young people, improvement in dealing with media, youth organisation work, child and youth services provided by voluntary social service agencies, further training, international youth work, international study programmes for experts in child and youth services and social work, integration of children and young people with migrant background, development of opportunities for young people in socially deprived areas. National programmes under the Ministry for Youth (BMFSFJ):

- **Model Programme Competence agencies** (former: Work oriented youth social work), 2007-2008 (planned to be continued until 2013). More info: <http://www.kompetenzagenturen.de> or http://www.kompetenzagenturen.de/pt/bc/Veroeffentlichung_Bundesanzeiger_17.03.07.pdf

- **Federal programme „Youth for Diversity, Tolerance and Democracy – against Right-Wing Extremism, Xenophobia and Anti-Semitism“**, 2007-2009. More info: <http://www.vielfalt-tut-gut.de>

- **Federal programme „Promotion of Counselling Networks - Mobile Intervention against right-wing extremism“**, 2007-2010. More info: <http://www.beratungsnetzwerke.de>

- **Special programme „Employment, Education and Local Participation“**, 2007-2008 (as continuation of programmes Xenos and Social City (<http://www.sozialestadt.de>)). More info: <http://xenos-de.de/Xenos/Navigation/sonderprogramm.html>

- **Model programme „We care ourselves“**, 2006-2008. More info: <http://www.wir-kuemmern-uns-selbst.de>

- **Action Programme for more Youth Participation**, 2007-2009. More info: <http://www.dbjr.de/index.php?m=12>

- **Federal Model Programme „Inter-Generational Voluntary Services “**, 2005-2008. More info: <http://www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/freiwilligendienste-fuer-jedes-alter.html>

- Model Programme “Voluntary Services of young people with migrant background in youth migration services“, 2005-2008. More info:

<http://www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de/template.php?browser=ie&action=about&task=detail&mid=2&artid=281>

Programmes run/organised by other ministries/institutions than ministry for youth

- **Model programme „Promotion of Children and Youth with Migrant Background (FörMig)“**, 2004-2009. Promotion of language, education and training. More info: <http://www.bmbf.de/de/6877.php>

- **Programme „School-Economy-Professional Life“**, since 1999. Improvement of transition process from school to vocational training for young people. More info: <http://www.swa-programm.de>
- **Programme „Learning Regions – Providing Support for Networks“**, since 2000. Promotion of regional co-operation and networking, bringing together of important players from different educational sectors in order to jointly develop new offers for Lifelong Learning within the scope of a regional strategy, also for young people with migrant background. More info: <http://www.lernende-regionen.info>
- **National Pact for Training and Young Specialists in Germany**, 2004-2010. More info: <http://www.bmas.bund.de/BMAS/Redaktion/Pdf/ausbildungspakt-juni-2004,property=pdf,bereich=bmas,sprache=de,rwb=true.pdf>
 - Special programme “Qualification of Young People for Entry into Professional Life (EQJ)”, 2004-2008. More info: <http://www.bmas.bund.de/BMAS/Navigation/Arbeitsmarkt/Programme-fuer-Arbeit-und-Ausbildung/einstiegsqualifizierung-jugendlicher.did=89660.html>
- **Programme JOBSTARTER – Train for the Future**, 2005-2010. Promote innovation and development of structures in vocational education, foster better regional provision of vocational training places by mobilizing firms and enterprises. More info: <http://www.jobstarter.de>
- **Special Programme „Programme Training Places East 2007“**, 2007-2010. Further provision of additional training places in the new federal states (*Länder*). More info: <http://www.bmbf.de/de/2323.php>

Action plans i.e. official strategies

National Action Plan „For a child-friendly Germany 2005-2010“. Main topics: 1. Equal chances through education, 2. Growing up without violence, 3. Promotion of healthy life styles and environmental conditions, 4. Participation of children and youth, 5. Development of adequate life standards for all children, 6. Observance of international agreements. More info:

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/kinder-und-jugend.did=31372.html>

Action Plan of the Federal Government to Protect Children and Young People from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, initiated in 2003. Main goals: to further develop the legal protection of children and youth, to strengthen prevention and victim’s protection, to assure international legal persecution and co-operation, to promote networking of assistance and counselling offerings. More info: <http://www.hinsehen-handeln-helfen.de>

Other action plans/official strategies with an impact on youth

Educational Programme „Future Education and Care“, 2003-2008. Creation of/expanding all-day schooling. More info: <http://www.ganztagsschulen.org>

- Accompanying programme „Ideas for more! Learn all-day“. More info:

<http://www.ganztaegig-lernen.de>

National Plan for Integration, adopted in 2007. One important issue will be the improvement of the educational and training situation of young people with migrant background. More info:

<http://www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/DE/Bundesregierung/BeauftragtefuerIntegration/NationalerIntegrationsplan/nationaler-integrationsplan.html>

Programmes and actions for specific target groups

Integration of young people with migrant background, since 2005. More info:

<http://www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de>

Local capital for social purposes (LOS), 2003-2007. Federal programme, also directed at disadvantaged young people and young people with migrant background. More info:

<http://www.los-online.de>

School denial – the 2nd chance, 2006-2007 (planned to be continued until 2013). More info:

<http://www.zweite-chance.eu>

New ways for boys, since 2005. Pools, supports and initiates regional offers in terms of life and career planning for boys. More info: <http://www.neue-wege-fuer-jungs.de>

Youth exchange in and with developing countries, since 2007. Directed at students from 16 to 21 from Germany and developing countries. More info:

<http://dip.bundestag.de/btd/14/080/1408006.pdf>

Programm „Job 4000“, since 2007. Directed at better integration of heavily handicapped people, especially young people and school graduates, into work processes. More info:

<http://www.bmas.bund.de/BMAS/Navigation/Teilhabe-behinderter-Menschen/jobs-ohne-barrieren.did=161518.html>

5. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

224 228 000 € (Source:

<http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/bundeshaushalt2007/pdf/epl17/s1702101.pdf>)

Regional level

Each federal state has its own regional budget allocated to youth issues. It is difficult to provide numbers here.

Example City and County Breme (smallest federal state according to population)

Budget allocated to youth (and social affairs) in 2007: 639 611 000 €

(http://www.finanzen.bremen.de/sixcms/media.php/13/Finanzrahmen_2005-2009_Stand_28032006.pdf)

Example North Rhine Westphalia (biggest federal state according to population)

Budget allocated in the child and youth plan in 2007: 75 070 500 €

(<http://www.landtag.nrw.de/haushalt/2007/doku/e15/kap040.pdf>)

Example Bavaria (biggest federal state according to area)

Budget allocated to youth work: 22 550 000 €

(http://www.stmf.bayern.de/haushalt/staatshaushalt_2007/haushaltsplan/epl05.pdf)

Example Brandenburg

Budget allocated to youth in 2007 (Regional Youth Plan): 10 440 500 €

(http://www.brandenburg.de/media/1379/05_2007.pdf)

Local level

In order to perform the functions of **local self-government** in towns and districts there must be a council representing the citizen's interests. This is established on the basis of general, direct, free, equal and secret elections where citizens from other EU countries are entitled to vote as well.

There are four types of functions discharged in local administration:

1. voluntary responsibilities (e. g. theatre, sports centres)
2. statutory functions of self-government (e. g. youth services, social assistance benefit)

These powers are exercised in the local bodies' own right.

3. functions discharged as directed (e. g. fire brigade, housing benefit)
4. functions exercised on behalf of the State (e. g. national elections, population census)

These powers are transferred to the local bodies. The communities derive their funds mainly from community taxes, the community share of the wages and income tax as well as the trade tax, and from allocations made by the respective Land.

6. European Dimension of youth policy

Please describe the context in which international youth work takes place (legislation, implementing institutions)

The European and international youth policy of the Federal Government becomes visible in the framework of the co-operation in international and multilateral organisations/institutions. It is deeply embedded in the cultural relations policy of the Federal Republic of Germany. German international youth policy takes shape through the participation of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) in the committees of the European Union and the Council of Europe and the involvement in youth politically relevant actions of the United Nations and through its leading position in the mixed expert bodies for the bilateral youth political co-operation with other countries.

As a task of child and youth services as a whole, it is also the mission of the European and international youth policy to help implement the aims and tasks of the §§ 1 and 2 Social Code, Volume Eight (SGB VIII) so that young people can freely develop their personality, make use of their rights and to fulfil their share of responsibility toward society and state. As for national youth policy and youth work, the Federal Child and Youth Plan is also the central funding mechanism for international and European youth policy and youth work. With regard to the implementation of the European programme YOUTH IN ACTION 2007 – 2013 in Germany the European Commission and the BMFSFJ provide financial support by means of co-financing.

Alltogether, the Federal Government provides an annual budget of over 30 million Euro for international youth policy and youth work. In Germany the use of funds from the European Social Funds is rising, mainly to implement programmes which are connected to European Youth Pact and serve the improvement of the social and vocational integration of young people.

(Full version of the text available in: Kinder- und Jugendpolitik. Kinder- und Jugendhilfe in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. To be published in German, English and French in March 2008 or online: www.kinder-jugendhilfe.org)

The central institution for the implementation of international youth work on behalf of the BMFSFJ is IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany e.V. (<http://www.ijab.de>).

6.1 Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes (including funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation)

Germany actively participates in the CoE's campaign "all different – all equal". The structure in charge of organising the campaign on national level – the National Campaign Committee – is the German National Committee for International Youth Work attached to the German National Youth Council. More info: <http://www.jugendkampagne.de>.

The Activities organised by the CoE, e.g. trainings for European youth work, study sessions, intercultural language courses and others, are open to members of German youth organisations.

German youth organisations make also use of the funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation (EYF). In 2007, projects linked to the themes of the European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation "All Different - All Equal" were given priority for EYF funding. More info on grant decisions for 2007:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/fej/Grant_decisions_PC17.pdf.

6.2 European Union programmes

Briefly explain how the YOUTH Programme is implemented in your country and provide a link/ to the institutions who implement this programme (National Agencies or other). Please also refer to European action in the field of youth information (national website of Eurodesk).

YOUTH for Europe (<http://www.webforum-jugend.de>) - the German Agency for the European Union (EU) Programme YOUTH IN ACTION is responsible for supporting the EU Commission in putting the programme YOUTH IN ACTION into practice. As the national agency for Germany it allocates grants for international out-of-school activities as well as for youth initiatives. The national agency also acts in an advisory capacity in the planning, running and organisation of projects and provides information on developments and possibilities in the programme YOUTH IN ACTION. Every year, the national agency offers an extensive range of further training and education courses for staff that specialises in international youth work and young people who want to carry out their own projects. YOUTH for Europe helps in the search for international partners and, as a SALTO centre (Support for Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities), it coordinates further training activities which are offered by all national agencies in the network.

Germany is involved as a partner in EURODESK – the European network of information services in 27 countries providing a unique access to European information for young people and those who work with them. It is represented by the national agency EURODESK Germany (<http://www.eurodesk.de>) which is attached to IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany e.V. (<http://www.ijab.de>).

Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth purposes

The European Social Fund is another source of financing programmes directed at youth in Germany (see national programmes on youth).

The EU programme Safer Internet Plus (2005-2008) provides funds for the promotion of safer use of the Internet and new online technologies, particularly for children.

The EU Life Long Learning Programme (former SOCRATES and LEONARDO DA VINCI) covers supports funding for learning opportunities from childhood to old age in every single life situation. The organisation in charge is the Educational Exchange Service (*Pädagogischer Austauschdienst*).

Poster competitions organised by the European Union in order to increase awareness among Europe's younger citizens about EU action in fields like justice, rights and non-discrimination, e.g. on „The European Union and Non-Discrimination (2007)“ or “The European Union and the rights of children (2006)”, are also open to young people from Germany.

7. Forthcoming events/conferences

7.1 Current developments/plans with regard to national legislation/guidelines

Priorities with regard to children and youth addressed in 2007/2008:

- **Improving child day-care – Improve quality:**

Extension of day-care services for under-threes according to Child Day-Care Expansion Act (TAG).

More info: <http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/Politikbereiche/kinder-und-jugend,did=81130.html>

- **Protection of children and youth – Optimize early years' education:**

Improvement of child protection in particularly vulnerable families from neglect/abuse, enhancement of parental skills; strengthening of media literacy and skills. More info:

<http://www.schau-hin.info>

- **Future Factor Youth – Use of creative potentials – Promote Competences:**

Enforcement of diversity, tolerance and democracy, sustainability of social and political learning, physical education and intercultural competence. Participation of young people on national, European and international level is one of the main pillars of a future-oriented policy.

- **Improve social and vocational integration of youth:**

Improvement of social and vocational integration of disadvantaged youth with and without migration background through programmes, e.g.:

“School denial - The Second Chance”. More info: <http://www.zweite-chance.de>

“Competence Agencies”. More info: <http://www.kompetenzagenturen.de>

"Local Capital for social purposes (LOS - Lokales Kapital für soziale Zwecke)". More info: <http://www.los-online.de>

- **Strengthening civil society:**

Promotion of voluntary activities across generations. Development of a broader approach in order to improve general framework. More info:

http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Broschuerenstelle/Pdf-Anlagen/G_C3_BCF_20-20Brosch_C3_BCRe,property=pdf,bereich=sprache=de,rwb=true.pdf

- **New infrastructure: Creation of generation houses:**

More Info: <http://www.mehrgenerationenhaeuser.de>

- **Strengthening of Europe – Give international impulses:**

Give young people the chance to get international experience, obtain intercultural competences, recognise diversity and work internationally through international encounters and exchanges (Source: Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, <http://www.bmfsfj.de>)

7.2 Current developments/plans with regard to European youth policy priorities

Please mention important events in the youth field, especially those linked to the four Open Method of Coordination key priorities and give the dates foreseen

One aim of the European youth policy carried out by the Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is to improve social participation of young people. To fulfil this demand the Ministry initiated, in cooperation with the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR) and the Federal Agency for Civic Education (BPB), the Action Programme for more Youth Participation (<http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/Politikbereiche/kinder-und-jugend.did=96350.html>). DBJR is in charge of four modules of the action programme (<http://www.dbjr.de/index.php?m=12>):

1. Come in Contract – directed at children and young people who want to negotiate their wishes and ideas with directly and having equal rights with decision-makers in policy and society. Central idea: Mutual agreement. Projects can receive funding up to 5000 Euro. Next deadlines: 15 February 2008, 15 July 2008.
2. " Youth make Media" (*JUGEND macht MEDIEN*) – Media workshops by and with young people. Aim: Help young people to overcome their inhibitions with regard to media and give them the opportunity to present their projects in an optimal way. Next workshops: 5-7 October 2007, 19-21 October 2007.
3. YOUrope07 – Funding of Projects dealing with topic Europe, varying from children's rights, nature protection to European Constitution. Funding closed, final event: 18 September 2007. BPB carries out annual idea contests (http://www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/4Z7WVR,0,0,Ideenwettbewerb_2007.html) in order to generate projects directed at children any young people with special needs. Next contest: Autumn 2007.

Further information on the key priorities of the Federal Government in the framework of the implementation of the European Youth Pact:

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Abteilung5/Pdf-Anlagen/implementierung-pakt-jugend.property=pdf,bereich=,sprache=de,rwb=true.pdf>