

# The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on  
**Country information on youth policies**



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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## GERMANY, 2005

### 1 Statistics on young people

#### 1.1 Total number of young people in global population

17 199 929 *young persons*

#### 1.2 Percentage of young people in global population

20,85 %

#### 1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
16,25 %	16,9 %	16,4 %	17,4 %	16,75 %	16,3 %

#### 1.4 Percentage of young people by gender

Male	Female
50,97 %	49,03 %

#### 1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	7,92 %	8,21 %	8,05 %	8,6 %	8,25 %	8,0 %
Male	8,34 %	8,66 %	8,37 %	8,82 %	8,5 %	8,28 %

#### 1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population

N/A %

#### 1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population

N/A %

#### 1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population

N/A %

#### 1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population

N/A %

#### 1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population

N/A %

## 1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers) N/A *persons*

## 2 Actors and structures

### 2.1 National public authorities

#### 2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ, [www.bmfsfj.de](http://www.bmfsfj.de))

Name of minister

Ursula von der Leyen (Christian Democratic Union, CDU)

Duration of mandate

48 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

80 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

[info@bmfsfj.service.bund.de](mailto:info@bmfsfj.service.bund.de)

Function, role and competence of 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, - 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, - 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, - takes part in the further development and implementation of European youth programmes, - asks independent experts to inform about the situation of young people in Germany and supports respective research projects.

#### 2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

- Bundesjugendkuratorium (Federal Advisory Committee on Youth Problems, [www.bundesjugendkuratorium.de](http://www.bundesjugendkuratorium.de)), [info.bjk@t-online.de](mailto:info.bjk@t-online.de) The Federal Advisory Committee on Youth Problems 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



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where it thinks that action is needed. - Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Medien (Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons, [www.bundespruefstelle.de](http://www.bundespruefstelle.de)), [info@bpjm.bund.de](mailto:info@bpjm.bund.de) The Federal Department 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". - Bundesamt für den Zivildienst (Federal Office for the Alternative Civilian Service, [www.zivildienst.de](http://www.zivildienst.de)), [info@baz.bund.de](mailto:info@baz.bund.de) The Federal Office 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 Commission of Experts for the Child and Youth Report of the Federal Government (<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.

### 2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

- Ausschuss für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth at the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag)), [familienausschuss@bundestag.de](mailto:familienausschuss@bundestag.de). 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 children/child prostitution/sex tourism - Kinderkommission (Commission for the Perception of Children's Needs), [kinderkommission@bundestag.de](mailto:kinderkommission@bundestag.de). Sub-committee of Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Involved as '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, if appropriate, makes suggestions for amendments

### 2.1.4 Other national public authorities

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) and many organisations, associations and institutions. These are: - Deutscher Städtetag (German Association of Cities and Towns, [www.staedtetag.de](http://www.staedtetag.de)), - Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund (German Association of Towns and Municipalities, [www.dstgb.de](http://www.dstgb.de)), - Deutscher Landkreistag (German County Association, [www.landkreistag.de](http://www.landkreistag.de)).

## 2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

### 2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

- Jugendministerkonferenz (Conference of Youth Ministers). Chair of Conference changes regularly, in 2005 with Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung, Familie und Frauen, [bernhard.wolfegg@stmas.bayern.de](mailto:bernhard.wolfegg@stmas.bayern.de). Members: ministers of the federal states responsible



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for questions of youth services. Conference stimulates and promotes: statutory and voluntary youth service organisations, 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; Conference works towards an equal development of institutions and programmes, supports local youth offices/youth offices of the federal states. - Arbeitsgemeinschaft der obersten Landesjugendbehörden (Working Party of the Highest Youth Authorities of the Federal States, in 2005 with Sozialministerium Baden-Württemberg, [poststelle@sm.bwl.de](mailto:poststelle@sm.bwl.de)). The organisation system of the Working Party varies. In individual states youth questions are concentrated in one department, in others divided between different ministries. Working Party decides upon legal questions, youth services, specialist policy questions of youth services, youth political questions, prepares corresponding resolutions for the Conference of Youth Ministers. Role and competencies: see Conference of Youth Ministers. Working Party works towards an equal development of institutions and programmes, supports local/regional youth offices as well as Highest Youth Authorities of the federal states. - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Landesjugendämter (Working Party of the Youth Offices of the Federal States). Overall coordination varies, in 2005 with Bayerisches Landesjugendamt, [poststelle@zbfbs-blja.bayern.de](mailto:poststelle@zbfbs-blja.bayern.de), [www.bagljae.de](http://www.bagljae.de). Working Party is an amalgamation of the 17 youth offices of the federal states (do cross-sectoral work in respective catchment areas). Tasks: further training of staff in youth services, counselling assistance for local youth offices/organisations of voluntary youth services, protection of children/young people in institutions; planning, stimulation, promotion, running pilot programmes.

### 2.2.2 Local public structures 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



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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.

### 2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

#### 2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendhilfe (AGJ, Child and Youth Welfare Association, [www.agj.de](http://www.agj.de)), founded in 1949, given its present name in September 1971. 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: 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.

- Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge (DV, German Association of Public and Private Welfare Services, [www.deutscher-verein.de](http://www.deutscher-verein.de)), founded in 1880, central amalgamation of public and private organisations involved in social work. Main functions: initiation of and help in formulating improvements to social policy, making recommendations concerning the practical nature of statutory and independent social work, examination of the entire field of social legislation, provision of regular information for people working in these fields, promotion of the social sciences, monitoring and evaluating developments in the social services of other countries, promoting the work of the International Social Service ISS Geneva, promoting international cooperation and publishing literature on social issues.

### 2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

#### 2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field

This is only a selection of bodies: - Association for Educational Supervisory Services AFET - Federal Union ([www.afet-ev.de](http://www.afet-ev.de)). National youth aid association concentrating on "supervision services" in Germany - Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People



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([www.bag.jugendschutz.de](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. - Federal Association for Youth Social Work ([www.bag-jugendsozialarbeit.de](http://www.bag-jugendsozialarbeit.de)). Amalgamation of voluntary youth service organisations and regional youth social work associations. - Federal Conference of Educational Counselling Services and Child Guidance ([www.bke.de](http://www.bke.de)). Central organisation for education, family and youth counselling. - German Federal Youth Council ([www.dbjr.de](http://www.dbjr.de)). Standing conference of youth organisations and the Regional Youth Councils active throughout Germany. - German Sports Youth in the German Sports Federation ([www.dsj.de](http://www.dsj.de)). Youth organisation of the German Sports Federation - German Union of Federal Associations for Cultural Youth Education ([www.bkj.de](http://www.bkj.de)). Main partner to the Federal German Government in matters of the cultural education of children and young people. - International Federation of Voluntary Associations of Youth Social Work and Vocational Training ([www.internationaler-bund.de](http://www.internationaler-bund.de)). Nation-wide voluntary organisation in the field of youth and social work and vocational training. - International Youth Exchange and Visitors' Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB, [www.ijab.de](http://www.ijab.de)). Central federal office specialising in international youth policy, youth work and youth information. - Association of Voluntary Social Welfare Services ([www.bagfw.de](http://www.bagfw.de)). Amalgamation of the leading organisations of independent social work.

### 2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

German Federal Youth Council, [www.dbjr.de](http://www.dbjr.de) Bavarian Jugendring, [www.bjr.de](http://www.bjr.de) Youth Council of Bremen/Regional Working Party of Youth Organisations in Bremen, [www.bremerjugendring.de](http://www.bremerjugendring.de) Youth Council of Hesse, [www.hessischer-jugendring.de](http://www.hessischer-jugendring.de) Children and Youth Council of Saxony, [www.jugendinfo.net](http://www.jugendinfo.net) Children and Youth Council of Saxony-Anhalt, [www.kjr-lsa.de](http://www.kjr-lsa.de) Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, [www.ljrsh.de](http://www.ljrsh.de) Regional Youth Council of Baden-Württemberg, [www.ljrbw.de](http://www.ljrbw.de) Berlin Regional Youth Council, [www.ljrberlin.de](http://www.ljrberlin.de) Regional Youth Council Brandenburg, [www.ljr-brandenburg.de](http://www.ljr-brandenburg.de) Hamburg Regional Youth Council, [www.ljr-hh.de](http://www.ljr-hh.de) Regional Youth Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, [www.jugend.inmv.de](http://www.jugend.inmv.de) Regional Youth Council of Lower Saxony, [www.ljr.de](http://www.ljr.de) Regional Youth Council of North Rhine-Westphalia, [www.ljr-nrw.de](http://www.ljr-nrw.de) Regional Youth Council of Rhineland-Palatinate, [www.ljr-rlp.de](http://www.ljr-rlp.de) Regional Youth Council of the Saarland, [www.landesjugendring-saar.de](http://www.landesjugendring-saar.de) Regional Youth Council of Thuringia, [www.landesjugendring-thueringen.de](http://www.landesjugendring-thueringen.de)

### 2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

This is only a selection of large youth NGOs: Council of Political Youth Organisations, [infos@jdjl.org](mailto:infos@jdjl.org) djo - German Youth in Europe, [www.djo.de](http://www.djo.de) Federal Youth Foundation of the Workers' Welfare Association, [www.awo-jugendwerk.de](http://www.awo-jugendwerk.de) Federation of German Catholic Youth, [www.bdkj.de](http://www.bdkj.de) Federation of Protestant Youth in the Federal Republic of Germany, [www.evangelische-jugend.de](http://www.evangelische-jugend.de) German Federal Youth Council, [www.dbjr.de](http://www.dbjr.de) German Federation of Rural Youth, [www.landjugend.de](http://www.landjugend.de) German Junior Fire Brigades, [www.jugendfeuerwehr.de](http://www.jugendfeuerwehr.de) German Red Cross Youth, [www.jrk.de](http://www.jrk.de) German Schreiber Youth, [www.deutsche-schreiberjugend.de](http://www.deutsche-schreiberjugend.de) German Sports Youth in the German Sports Federation, [www.dsj.de](http://www.dsj.de) Maltese Youth, [www.malteser.de](http://www.malteser.de)



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Socialist Youth of Germany - The Falcons, [www.wir-falken.de](http://www.wir-falken.de) Trade Union Youth in the Federation of German Trade Unions, [www.dgb-jugend.de](http://www.dgb-jugend.de) Working Party of Central Youth Organisations, [www.azj.de](http://www.azj.de) Young European Federalists, [www.jef.de](http://www.jef.de) Young Nature Friends of Germany, [www.naturfreundejugend.de](http://www.naturfreundejugend.de) Young Samaritan Association, [www.asj-bj.de](http://www.asj-bj.de) Youth of the German Life Saving Society, [www.dlrg-jugend.de](http://www.dlrg-jugend.de) Youth of the Technical Relief Association, [www.thw-jugend.de](http://www.thw-jugend.de) Youth Section of Friends of the Earth Germany, [www.bundjugend.de](http://www.bundjugend.de)

### 2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field

- Child and Youth Welfare Association ([www.agj.de](http://www.agj.de)), association of central federal youth organisations, regional youth councils, leading voluntary social welfare and central specialist organisations, main youth authorities (ministries) and youth offices of the federal states - German Federal Youth Council ([www.dbjr.de](http://www.dbjr.de)), standing conference of youth organisations and regional youth councils; represents interests of young people/joint interests of member organisations in public/in particular when dealing with parliament and government; maintains flow of information between member organisations; is involved in international youth policy/commissions/work groups, makes statements on laws/National Youth Reports - Researcher-Practitioner-Dialogue on International Youth Exchanges ([www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de](http://www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de)), organizes/facilitates interdisciplinary/inter-organizational discourse between social sciences & programme practice in international exchanges - Social Scientific Study Circle for International Problems ([www.ssip-web.de](http://www.ssip-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 - Working Group on Expert Conferences on Youth Services of the Scientific Association for Urban Studies ([www.vfk.de/agfj](http://www.vfk.de/agfj)), organisation/running of national specialist conferences on new requirements/current developments/problems in youth welfare

### 2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

- Child and Youth Welfare Association ([agj@agj.de](mailto:agj@agj.de), [www.agj.de](http://www.agj.de)), - German Federal Youth Council ([info@dbjr.de](mailto:info@dbjr.de), [www.dbjr.de](http://www.dbjr.de)), - Researcher-Practitioner-Dialogue on International Youth Exchanges ([www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de](http://www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de)), - Social Scientific Study Circle for International Problems ([geschaeftsfuehrung@ssip-web.de](mailto:geschaeftsfuehrung@ssip-web.de), [www.ssip-web.de](http://www.ssip-web.de)), - Working Group on Expert Conferences on Youth Services of the Scientific Association for Urban Studies ([adam@vfk.de](mailto:adam@vfk.de), [www.vfk.de/agfj](http://www.vfk.de/agfj)), - German Association of Public and Private Welfare Services ([info@deutscher-verein.de](mailto:info@deutscher-verein.de), [www.deutscher-verein.de](http://www.deutscher-verein.de)), - German Institute for Youth Services and Family Rights ([institut@dijuf.de](mailto:institut@dijuf.de), [www.dijuf.de](http://www.dijuf.de)), - Guild of Social Work ([geschaeftsfuehrung@gilde-soziale-arbeit.de](mailto:geschaeftsfuehrung@gilde-soziale-arbeit.de), [www.gilde-soziale-arbeit.de](http://www.gilde-soziale-arbeit.de)).

### 2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

- German Association of Public and Private Welfare Services ([www.deutscher-verein.de](http://www.deutscher-verein.de)), central amalgamation of public/private organisations involved in social work - German Institute for Youth Services and Family Rights ([www.dijuf.de](http://www.dijuf.de)), forum for special questions; promotes expert dialogue between institutions and professional groups which work with issues of youth services/family rights; exchange mainly at conferences/in further education/in work groups - Guild of Social Work



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(www.gilde-soziale-arbeit.de), association of experts from youth movement pressed towards social work; crucial work in: renewing of upbringing of young people under local authority care, youth penal system, training of those acting in the area of social work; regional work circles/annual conferences/newsletter

## 3 Legislation

### 3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany applies to all citizens. Some articles specifically point out to youth. These are: - 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 defense organization. (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.

### 3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

The Federal Republic of Germany ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in 1952 and transposed it into national law.

### 3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Children's Rights

The European Convention on the exercise of Children's Rights was signed on 25 October 2000 and ratified on 10 April 2002. It went into force on 1 August 2002. In accordance with Article 1, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the Federal Republic of Germany applies the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights to proceedings before the Family Court or the Guardianship Court in accordance with the following provisions of the Civil Code so far as the care of the child is concerned, including: 1. transfer of the right to determine the child's name; 2. substitution for the other parent's consent in respect of conferment of the name; 3. transfer of the right to decide in cases where there are differences of opinion between the parents concerning the exercise of parental custody; 4. withdrawal of a parent's, guardian's or curator's power to represent the child; 5. decisions on differences of opinion between the parents and a curator; 6. transfer of matters relating to parental custody to the person charged with the child's care; 7. assistance of parents in caring for the child; 8. placement of a child involving deprivation of liberty; 9. surrender of the child, determination of access to third persons, removal from the person charged with care or from the spouse or person entitled to access; 10. risk to the child's welfare; 11. parental custody



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on separation of the parents; 12. suspension of parental custody; 13. parental custody following the death of a parent; 14. parental custody following withdrawal of custody; 15. access to the child; 16. restriction or exclusion of the power to decide on matters affecting everyday life or actual care; 17. measures where the parents are unable to take action; 18. appointment of a guardian, a supervisory guardian or a curator; 19. decision on difference of opinion or on the allocation of duties between several guardians or curators; others.

### 3.4 National legislation on youth

Many general laws (German Civil Code, German Penal Code, 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: - 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 - 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

### 3.5 Regional or 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.



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### 3.6 Guidelines

In the framework of the act to reform child and youth services # Child and Youth Services Act of 26 June 1990, last published on 8 December 1998, last amended on 20 June 2002 # a new legal basis was created for child and youth services in the Federal Republic of Germany: the SGB VIII. The new act has taken the place of the Youth Welfare Act which was basically made in 1922, and came into force on 1 January 1991 and in the new federal states already on 3 October 1990. Action plan "For a Germany suitable for children 2005-2010" in order to implement the decisions of the World Children Summit of the United Nations in May 2002. Main topics: 1. Equal chances in 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.

## 4 Programmes

### 4.1 European programmes

The main European programmes applied in Germany are: Socrates/Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, YOUTH.

#### 4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

YOUTH for Europe - German National Agency for the EU Action Programme YOUTH (JUGEND für Europa - Deutsche Agentur für das EU-Aktionsprogramm JUGEND) c/o Internationaler Jugendaustausch- und Besucherdienst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (IJAB) e.V., Godesberger Allee 142 - 148, D-53175 Bonn, Contact: +49 228 9506-220, [jfe@jfemail.de](mailto:jfe@jfemail.de), [www.webforum-jugend.de](http://www.webforum-jugend.de)

#### 4.1.2 Eurodesk

Eurodesk c/o Internationaler Jugendaustausch- und Besucherdienst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (IJAB) e.V., Godesberger Allee 142 - 148, D-53175 Bonn, Contact: + 49 228 9506-208, [eurodeskde@eurodesk.org](mailto:eurodeskde@eurodesk.org), [www.eurodesk.de](http://www.eurodesk.de)

#### 4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

YOUTH for Europe (JfE) - the German Agency for the EU Action Programme YOUTH is responsible for supporting the EU Commission in putting the action programme YOUTH 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 action programme YOUTH. Every year, the national agency offers an extensive range of further training and education courses for staff who specialise 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



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Opportunities), it coordinates further training activities which are offered by all national agencies in the network.

#### 4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

European Social Fund

#### 4.2 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 promotion tool for child and youth policy and child and youth services: Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes) with a total of 18 main areas of support in the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation, 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. - Federal model programme #Development and chances for young people in socially deprived area# (E & C). More info: [www.eundc.de](http://www.eundc.de) - Programme #Integration of young people with migrant background#. More info: [www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de](http://www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de) - Model programme: Work oriented youth social work (model phase: 2002 # 2006 Setting up of so called competence agencies). More info: [www.kompetenzagenturen.de](http://www.kompetenzagenturen.de) - National action plan for the protection of children and youth from sexual abuse and exploitation. More info: [www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/kinder-und-jugend,did=5898.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/kinder-und-jugend,did=5898.html) - Action programme "Youth for Tolerance and Democracy # against right-wing extremism, xenophobia and anti-semitism". More info: [www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/kinder-und-jugend,did=4732.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/kinder-und-jugend,did=4732.html) Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people Federal programme "Local capital for social purposes" (LOS - Lokales Kapital für soziale Zwecke). Promotion and support of people disadvantaged at the labour market. More info: [www.los-online.de](http://www.los-online.de)

### 5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth

- Youth Employment Action Plan "Ausbildungsprogramm Ost 2005", by Ministry for Education and Research: promoting professional education in the Eastern federal states. More info: [www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)
- Action programme "Environment and Health" (Umwelt und Gesundheit), by Ministries for Health/for Environment and Consumer protection. Child relevant topics: Research/Discovery of the connection between environmental influences and child health damages; Measures in order to



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improve the common civil dialogue about the assessment and evaluation of child health risks through environmental pollution; Setting up recommendations for action for policy-makers to protect children from health risks by environmental pollution and their implementation. More info: [www.apug.de](http://www.apug.de) - Capital investment programme " Future Education and Care# (Zukunft Bildung und Betreuung), by Ministry for Education and Research: building up/expanding all-day schooling in Germany. More info: [www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)

## 6 Budget

### 6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

219995000 *Euros*

### 6.2 Main beneficiaries

- all organisations and institutions active in the field of child and youth services can apply for financial support - funds allocated to special associations: International Youth Exchange and Visitor#s Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB); Remscheid Academy for Education in Music, the Arts and Media; International Youth Library Munich; Federal Academy for Musical Youth Education Trossingen, Otto Benecke Foundation (OBS), German Youth Institute (DJI), German-Polish Youth Office (DPJW), German-French Youth Office (DFJW) - financial support for:  
- measures against violence and right-wing extremism - integration of young migrants - construction, bying, furnishing, maintenance of institutions for youth education/youth exchanges and youth hostels

### 6.3 Tendencities

There has been a continuous financial support for youth policies and actions in the youth field for many years.

## 7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination priorities.

As part of a policy for a society friendly to the family the German government plans the following measures: - further development of activities for participation together with youth associations, stronger transfer importance of childrens# rights to the public, inform parents, teachers, and experts in pedagogy - consideration of European dimension when planning local, regional and national activities for children and youth - promote same access to education for all young people - improve conditions and encourage young people in the eastern federal states to stay in their region - enlarge choice of professions for girls and boys, pay special attention to the overcoming of gender stereotypes - fight child abuse and neglect by prevention and innovative model programmes for the prevention of delinquency and the improvement of the protection of victims - evaluation of the new regulations in the field of youth protection before March 2008 - fight



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indebtedness among young people - fight youth unemployment (first priority), main target groups: young people who have difficulties to enter the labour market because of social problems; young school drop-outs, especially school objectors - fight increasing readiness for acts of violence among young people, improve co-operation with federal states, local municipalities, media, churches, business, trade unions, sports and youth associations, others - develop comprehensive concept for integration, intensify dialogue with churches, religious communities and other religious communities on a solid basis - evaluation of the changes to Social Code Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child and Youth Services initiated by act on further development of child and youth services (KICK) by the end of 2006 and, where necessary, make adaptations once again - close gap in the field of research on effectiveness of youth services.

## **8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities**

Children Summit "Kinder reden # Erwachsene hören zu" (Children talk - Adults are listening), 25-28 May 2006 in Duisburg, for kids from 12 to 15 who want to set up a future agreement with their demands and own obligations for a future that is worth living, more info: [www.kindergipfel.de](http://www.kindergipfel.de)

## **9 Useful links**

<http://www.bmfsfj.de> (Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth) <http://www.dbjr.de> (German Federal Youth Council) <http://www.ijab.de> (International Youth Exchange and Visitors' Service of the F.R.G. (IJAB) e.V.) <http://www.eurodesk.de> (National Eurodesk Agency Germany) <http://www.webforum-jugend.de> (German National Agency for the EU Action Programme YOUTH) <http://www.dji.de> (German Youth Institute) <http://www.conact-org.de> (German-Israeli Youth Office) <http://www.dfiw.de> (German-French Youth Office) <http://www.dpjw.de> (German-Polish Youth Office) <http://www.tandem-org.de> (German-Czech Youth Office) <http://www.destatis.de> (Statistics Germany) <http://www.dija.de> (Information on child and youth policy in Germany and further countries) <http://www.jugendforschung.de> (Youth research in German-speaking community) <http://www.kinder-jugendhilfe.info> (Child and youth services and policy in Germany, database on organisations and institutions in the field)

## **10 Context of national youth policy (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies)**

The aim of the Federal Government's child and youth policy is to create equal opportunities and options for the coming generation. In order to put this into practice the Federal Government wants to improve the political, societal and social framework conditions for young people and give child and youth policy the status allowing it to open up the necessary development opportunities for the young generation. Young people must have the opportunity to actively and independently use their chances. This includes establishing the equality of girls and boys, young women and young men.



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More than ever it means giving appropriate answers to the modernisation and pluralisation process in a changing society. Critical debate on contradictory and ever changing demands and the developments in the area of communication and new media are not only a challenge for young people, but also for politics. Youth research has shown that young people view democratic everyday life and especially central political institutions in Germany critically. They react to political and economic changes, formulate concrete problems and the expectation of seeing solutions in these areas. Young people desire more intervention opportunities and a democratic say in matters of school, higher education, vocation and the direct surroundings. Many are prepared to be involved socially and politically. This willingness to be involved is, however, directed less to the organisations and forms of action in established politics but much more to the area that is institutionally less well-established and therefore there can be more participation in decision-making. Strengthening the participation and cooperation of children and young people in political and societal processes is very important. A special challenge is the jeopardising of our democracy by right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and violence. Critical debate with right-wing extremism and the struggle against it belongs to one of the most important jobs in the area of youth policy. As well as the necessary repressive measures the programmes for the struggle against right-wing extremism under the umbrella of #The alliance for democracy and tolerance - against extremism and violence# place special weight on the strengthening of democratic culture and educating young people to democracy and tolerance. The intensification of youth political focus is based on the diverse situations of children and young people. The aim is to make the political and societal framework for young people such that they find space and resources which enable them to cope with the increasing individualisation and pluralisation processes in our society and participate actively in the development of our society. 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 locally. Also at the higher political level it is important to establish the understanding of child and youth policy as a cross-sectional task. There is no political field of action in which the effects of political measures on the situation of children and young people can be neglected. Areas in which this is clearly evident are, for example, family policy, educational policy, labour market policy. Also actions in other areas have a direct influence on the chances of young people to independently organise their own lives in the long run. A special challenge for child and youth policy is to open up for all young people irrespective of their social, cultural and ethnic origins equal chances of societal participation and especially access to an adequate working life with corresponding requirements. It is therefore a significant political task to promote concretely and individually young people with disadvantaged start chances that are not their fault. It is important that all young people can profit from the chances of societal change. This also involves opening up the chance for all children and young people to use the technical progress of the ongoing internationalisation of educational and working life and the chances of a Europe without internal borders. They can do this, for example, with regard to language learning, by early on gaining important professional skills. It is also important that young people learn to understand other countries and cultures and xenophobia and racism therefore never arise. This intercultural dialogue has special significance in modern times. Young



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## Country information on youth policies

people should develop a knowledge of similarities and differences from which mutual respect, understanding and interest for one another # for different cultural and religious backgrounds can grow.



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