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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

# COUNTRY SHEET

## ON YOUTH POLICY

### IN GERMANY



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## **1. Context and principles of national youth policy**

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

The Federal Government understands child and youth policy as a general responsibility of society. In this context, the Federal Government defines its child and youth policy as:

1. a governmental policy anchored in the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. In addition to the core issues of the Ministry's youth policy, it is also responsible for, inter alia, central programmes of the Federal Government's youth policy and important youth policy liaisons with other policy areas.
2. an overall responsibility of all Federal Ministries whose policies have a direct or indirect impact on the different situations in a young person's life. These include education (school, university, vocational training), the labour market, social issues, health, justice, interior affairs, regional and urban policies.
3. an enabling child and youth policy. Through co-operation with other stakeholders in society, child and youth policy improves the social opportunities of children and young people in different areas, supports them in coping with everyday life and encourages their involvement.

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

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

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

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

As for national youth policy and youth work, the Federal Child and Youth Scheme (*Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes*) is also the central funding mechanism for youth policy and youth work at European and international level. Almost 85 % of the public funding made available for child and youth services are provided by local authorities (towns, municipalities and countries).

## **2. Statistics on young people**

Mention the number of all young people from the ages of 15 and 29 who live in the country: 13,804,084 (2019)

Number and Percentage of young people in global population: 16,6% (2019)

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

Male: 7,193,647 (2019)

Female: 6,610,437 (2019)

(Source: Eurostat, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population-demography-migration-projections/data/database> , 5. März 2020)

## **3. Actors and Structures**

### **3.1 Public authorities**

#### **3.1.1 National public authorities**

Ministry in charge of youth:

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, [www.bmfsfj.de](http://www.bmfsfj.de)

Minister: Dr. Franziska Giffey

Duration of mandate: until September 2021

Youth Department in the Ministry

**Main tasks** of the Youth department:

The Youth department is, amongst others, in charge of federal laws concerning youth, for example, the 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 public youth services. It develops a new independent youth policy in order to set up a strong alliance for youth. 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 helps to develop European youth programmes and cross-border cooperation in the field of child and youth work. It asks independent experts to inform about the situation of young people in Germany by drafting child and youth reports on a regular basis.

The youth department also supports the protection of children and young people from sexual abuse and violence through the internet and fights child pornography in the internet. It provides funding for projects that promote tolerance and democracy to prevent extremist tendencies among children and youth. It is also in charge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the drafting of the reports about its implementation on national level. It also speaks up for the inclusion of young people with disabilities. The youth department supports disadvantaged young people and young migrants by improving their surrounding conditions.

**Number of people** who work in this ministry in the youth department: 140

**Director responsible** for Youth in the Ministry: Bettina Bundszus-Cecere,  
[info@bmfsfj.service.bund.de](mailto:info@bmfsfj.service.bund.de)

**Contact person** in the youth department competent for European youth policy: Uwe Finke-Timpe, [info@bmfsfj.service.bund.de](mailto:info@bmfsfj.service.bund.de)

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

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 Foreign Office, [www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)

Federal Ministry of the Interior, [www.bmi.bund.de](http://www.bmi.bund.de)

Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, [www.bmju.de](http://www.bmju.de)

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, [www.bmwi.de](http://www.bmwi.de)

Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, [www.bmas.de](http://www.bmas.de)

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, [www.bmel.de](http://www.bmel.de)

Federal Ministry of Defence, [www.bmvg.de](http://www.bmvg.de)

Federal Ministry of Health, [www.bmg.bund.de](http://www.bmg.bund.de)

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, [www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de)

Federal Ministry of Education and Research, [www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, [www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)

Advisory bodies:

The **Advisory Council for Family Issues**

([www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/Ministerium/beiraete.did=9388.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/Ministerium/beiraete.did=9388.html)) advises the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth independently and voluntarily concerning all issues of family research and family policy.

The **Federal Advisory Committee on Youth Problems**

([www.bundesjugendkuratorium.de](http://www.bundesjugendkuratorium.de)) is a group of up to 15 experts that advise 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. The Committee also gives recommendations with regard to current priorities in the child and youth policy of the Federal government. Furthermore, it proposes topics where it thinks that action is needed.

### The **Advisory Council for the Federal Voluntary Service**

([www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/freiwilliges-engagement,did=205204.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/freiwilliges-engagement,did=205204.html)) advises the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth regarding all issues of the Federal Voluntary Service.

**Advisory Board for the youth strategy:** The Federal Youth Ministry is also supported by the Advisory Board to integrate youth and civil society. Young people should also be directly involved. The contents of the youth strategy and a corresponding cabinet decision were drawn up in autumn 2019.<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/beirat-zur-gemeinsamen-jugendstrategie-einberufen/133714>

Subordinate agencies and structures of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth:

- The **Federal Review Board for Media Harmful to Minors** ([www.bundespruefstelle.de](http://www.bundespruefstelle.de)) is Federal) 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 Family and Civic Affairs** ([https://www.bafza.de/rat-und-hilfe/kriegsdienstverweigerung-zivildienst/?sword\\_list%5B0%5D=Kriegsdienstverweigerung&no\\_cache=1](https://www.bafza.de/rat-und-hilfe/kriegsdienstverweigerung-zivildienst/?sword_list%5B0%5D=Kriegsdienstverweigerung&no_cache=1)) 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. Even though the compulsory military service was suspended in July 2011, the right of conscientious objection still exists.
- The **Independent Commissioner for Issues of Sexual Child Abuse** (<https://beauftragter-missbrauch.de/>) supports and monitors the implementation of the recommendations of the round table "Sexual Child Abuse", especially the introduction and further development of protective measures to prevent sexual abuse of children in institutions.

Parliament commissions in charge of youth issues:

Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth at the German Federal Parliament ([www.bundestag.de/familie](http://www.bundestag.de/familie))

Name of President / Chair: Sabine Zimmermann (chair changes regularly),  
[familienausschuss@bundestag.de](mailto: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.

**Commission for the Perception of Children's Needs** ([www.bundestag.de/kiko](http://www.bundestag.de/kiko))

Name of President / Chair: Matthias Seestern-Pauly (chair changes regularly),  
[kinderkommission@bundestag.de](mailto: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.

**Commission of Experts for the Child and Youth Report of the Federal Government** ([www.bildungsserver.de/Kinder-und-Jugendberichte-3447.html](http://www.bildungsserver.de/Kinder-und-Jugendberichte-3447.html))

It consists of representatives from universities, non-statutory organisations in the field of child and youth services and cities and towns. The composition of the commission changes with each report. The report focuses on one specific topic in each legislative period. Last report published in 2017

(<https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/113816/a99ff7d041784d0a41ca295ce4bceb56/15--kinder-und-jugendbericht-data.pdf>)

### 3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

At state level, all 16 states maintain separate ministries in charge of youth affairs, which cooperate and coordinate their work through the Conference of Ministers for Youth and Family Affairs (JMFK).

The **Conference of Youth and Family Ministers** ([www.jfmk.de](http://www.jfmk.de)) is an expert body consisting of the ministers and senators in charge of child, youth and family affairs of



the federal states (*Länder*). 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.

Chair of the Conference: Changes regularly. In 2020 it rests with Baden-Württemberg, namely the Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration. 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**.

### **3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

At local level, the **municipal youth office** (Jugendamt) 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 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 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 and are the turntable for the establishment/promotion/modification of offers in child and youth services. Addresses of all youth offices at local level:

[https://www.jugendhilfeportal.de/institutionen/?tx\\_fkpcore\\_searchv2%5Bcontroller%5D=Search&cHash=237ac3bd8d15ea73d51cbc57be32b0a9#ergebnis](https://www.jugendhilfeportal.de/institutionen/?tx_fkpcore_searchv2%5Bcontroller%5D=Search&cHash=237ac3bd8d15ea73d51cbc57be32b0a9#ergebnis) (in German).

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

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

- **Child and Youth Welfare Association** ([www.agj.de](http://www.agj.de)). Founded in 1949. It 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 jointly 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.
- **Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People** ([www.bag-jugendschutz.de](http://www.bag-jugendschutz.de)). Founded in 1951 under the name Federal Association for Action to Protect Children. 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.

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

#### 3.3.1 Youth Councils

The **National Youth Council** is the **German Federal Youth Council** ([www.dbjr.de](http://www.dbjr.de)). Its current membership includes 29 youth organisations, 16 regional youth councils and 7

affiliated organisations. The 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, at European and international level.

There are 16 **Regional Youth Councils** (Landesjugendringe <https://www.dbjr.de/ueber-uns/mitgliedsorganisationen/> ) in Germany. 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.

**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 of the urban districts and the counties.

Example: North Rhine-Westphalia (biggest federal state according to population) with approx. 120 local youth councils (<https://www.ljr-nrw.de/stadt-und-kreisjugendringe/> )

### 3.3.2 Youth NGOs

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

- Association of Youth Groups within the German Organisation for the Hearing Impaired, [www.bundesjugend.de](http://www.bundesjugend.de)
- European Youth Parliament in Germany, [www.eyp.de](http://www.eyp.de)
- Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People, [www.bag-jugendschutz.de](http://www.bag-jugendschutz.de)
- Federal Forum for Child and Youth Travel, [www.bundesforum.de](http://www.bundesforum.de)
- German Federation of Associations for Cultural Child and Youth Education, [www.bkj.de](http://www.bkj.de)
- German Marine Youth, [www.dmj.de](http://www.dmj.de)
- German Scouting Association, [www.dpvonline.de](http://www.dpvonline.de)
- German Sports Youth in the German Olympic Sports Federation, [www.dsj.de](http://www.dsj.de)
- German Young Foresters – Federal Association of the Society for the Protection of German Forests, [www.waldjugend.de](http://www.waldjugend.de)
- German Youth Hostel Association, [www.jugendherberge.de](http://www.jugendherberge.de)
- Youth of the SoVD (Social Association of Germany), [www.sovd.de](http://www.sovd.de)
- International Federation of Voluntary Associations of Youth Social Work and Vocational Training, [www.internationaler-bund.de](http://www.internationaler-bund.de)
- Maltese Youth, [www.malteserjugend.de](http://www.malteserjugend.de)
- Party of Young Socialists in the Social Democratic Party of Germany, [www.jusos.de](http://www.jusos.de)
- Young Christian Democrats of Germany, [www.junge-union.de](http://www.junge-union.de)
- Young Left, [www.linksjugend-solid.de](http://www.linksjugend-solid.de)
- Young Greens, <https://gruene-jugend.de>
- Young Liberals, [www.julis.de](http://www.julis.de)

### **3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?**

If yes, give names and contacts and explain its structure. Please also explain your role within this network (as EKCYP correspondent). If no such network exists, please explain why and if there have been any attempts to set up such a network.

Expert groups, permanent networks: (Example: Researchers or research groups who are regularly involved or consulted in youth related topics on a national or regional level)

- Archive of the German Youth Movement, [www.archiv-jugendbewegung.de](http://www.archiv-jugendbewegung.de)

- Forum Science & Practice, organised by the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (aej) and the Federation of Protestant Students in Germany (ESG) to promote dialogue between science and practice, [www.evangelische-jugend.de/forum#c6288](http://www.evangelische-jugend.de/forum#c6288)
- German Youth Institute, [www.dji.de](http://www.dji.de)
- Institute for Applied Family, Childhood and Youth Research at the University of Potsdam (IFK), [www.ifk-vehlefanf.de](http://www.ifk-vehlefanf.de)
- Institute for Child and Youth Services, [www.ikj-mainz.de](http://www.ikj-mainz.de)
- Institute for Regional Innovation and Social Research – IRIS, [www.iris-egris.de](http://www.iris-egris.de)
- Institute for Social Work, [www.isa-muenster.de](http://www.isa-muenster.de)
- Institute for Social Work and Social Education, [www.iss-ffm.de](http://www.iss-ffm.de)
- Institute for Vocational Training, Labour Market Policy and Social Policy Ltd., [www.inbas.com](http://www.inbas.com)
- Office for Children and Youth Services Statistics, [www.akjstat.tu-dortmund.de](http://www.akjstat.tu-dortmund.de)
- Research Group Youth and Europe, [www.cap-lmu.de/fgje/](http://www.cap-lmu.de/fgje/)
- Research Institute in Labour Market Policies and Employment Strategies for Disadvantaged Young People, <http://www.iaj-oldenburg.de>
- Researcher-Practitioner-Dialogue on International Youth Work, [www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de](http://www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de)
- Social Research Institute Mainz, [www.ism-mz.de](http://www.ism-mz.de)
- Social-scientific Study Group of Intercultural Perspectives, [www.ssip-web.de](http://www.ssip-web.de)
- Working Group on Expert Conferences on Youth Services of the Scientific Association for Urban Studies, [www.fachtagungen-jugendhilfe.de](http://www.fachtagungen-jugendhilfe.de)

Since there are already several networks on youth topics in Germany, no new national network for youth policy has been established.

#### 4. Legislation

Please explain the legal foundations of national youth policy / actions concerning youth.

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): 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 organisation. 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 Equality for People with Disabilities
- Act on the Restriction of Child Pornography on the Internet (Access Blocking)
- Act on the Amendment of Provisions of the Telecommunications Act
- Act on the Advance Payment of Child Subsistence
- Act on the Fixed-Term Employment of Scientists
- Act on the Introduction of an Alcohol Ban for New Driving License Holders
- Acts on the Promotion of a Voluntary Community Service Year (FSJ) or a Voluntary Ecological Service Year (FÖJ)
- Adoption Placement Act
- Alcopop Taxation Act
- Alternative Civilian Service Act
- Career Development Assistance Act
- Child Daycare Promotion Act
- Conscientious Objection Act
- Criminal Law Protection for Stalking Victims (Stalking Act)
- Development Assistance Workers Act
- Distance Learning Protection Act
- EQJ Programme Directive

- Federal Child Benefit Act
- Federal Childcare Allowance Act
- Federal Child Protection Act
- Federal Education and Training Assistance Act
- Federal Gender Equality Act
- Federal Parenting Benefit and Parental Leave Act
- Federal Protection of Non-Smokers Act
- General Non-Discrimination Act
- Juvenile Courts Act
  - o Bill Amending the Juvenile Courts Act
  - o Bill Introducing Retroactive Orders of Preventive Detention for Sentences Under Juvenile Criminal Law
- Law of the Parent and Child
  - o Draft Bill Facilitating Family Court Orders in Case of a Danger to a Child's Well-being
- Legal Protection against Violent Video Games
- Maternity Protection Act
- Narcotics Act
- Partnership for Life Act
- Pregnancy and Family Assistance Amendment Act
- Pregnancy Conflicts Act
  - o Act on Assistance for Women in Special Pregnancy Termination Cases
  - o Legal Provisions on Pregnancy Terminations Pursuant to Section 218 of the Criminal Code
- Promotion of Vocational Education Act
- Prostitution Act
- Protection against Violence Act
- Protection of Young Persons Act
  - o *Länder* Convention on Youth Protection in the Media
- Protection of Young Persons at Work Act
  - o Protection of Children at Work Ordinance
- Social Code
  - o Social Code, Book II

- Social Code, Book III
- Fourth Act on the Amendment of the Social Code Book III - Improvement of the Qualification and Employment Opportunities of Young People
- Social Code, Book IX – Rehabilitation and Participation of Persons with Disabilities
- Social Code, Book V – Statutory Health Insurance
- Social Code, Book VIII – Child and Youth Services
  - Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Services
  - Day Care Expansion Act
- Social Code, Book XII – Social Welfare
- Social Welfare Courts Act
- Victim Compensation Act
- Vocational Education Act
- Weapons Act

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. More information: <https://www.jugendhilfeportal.de/recht/gesetze-des-bundes-und-der-laender/>

## 5. National Policy Programmes on youth

National programmes on youth

Child and youth policy in Germany is characterised by a diversity of levels and responsibilities. In line with Germany's federal structure, child and youth policy is not only a matter for the Federal Government but also for the *Länder*, municipal authorities and voluntary child and youth service organisations. The Federal Government understands child and youth policy as a general responsibility of society and defines it as:



1. a **governmental policy** anchored in the **Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth** ([www.bmfsfj.de](http://www.bmfsfj.de)). The Ministry is responsible for central programmes of the Federal Government's youth policy and important youth policy interfaces with other policy areas.
2. a **cross-sectional responsibility** across all Federal Ministries whose policies have a direct or indirect impact on the different situations in a young person's life. These include education, labour market, social, health, justice, interior, regional and urban policies.
3. an enabling child and youth policy.

A joint youth strategy of the Federal Government was developed and introduced in December 2019. It addresses ALL young people no matter what background and origin they have. It aims at involving young people in all decisions concerning them. In doing so they shall be offered the best possible conditions to cope with the challenges of this independent phase of life called youth. The youth strategy is based on the 'new youth policy' that has been pursued by the Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ) for a couple of years. Thus it makes the shared interests of millions of young people and adults between 12 and 27 visible.

Further information about the development and implementation of the joint youth strategy of the Federal Government and its elements can also be found at [www.jugendhilfeportal.de/jugendstrategie](http://www.jugendhilfeportal.de/jugendstrategie) .

#### Scope and contents

The joint youth strategy covers nine fields of action relevant to young people and lists a total of 163 measures of all departments that are newly taken or further developed, including:

- Future, Generational Dialogue & Images of Youth,
- Participation, commitment and democracy,
- Urban and rural spaces, housing and culture,
- Diversity & Participation,
- Education, work and freedom,

- Mobility and digital issues,
- Environment,
- Health,
- Europe and the world.

Main components and steps of the development of a joint youth strategy of the Federal Government have been and are:

- the work of an inter-ministerial working group Youth developing the joint youth strategy of the Federal Government, coordinating it with the other ministries and accompanying its implementation;
  - staff meetings across units and divisions within BMFSFJ;
  - external process consulting;
  - the BMFSFJ advisory board for the youth strategy of the Federal Government (Beirat des BMFSFJ zur Jugendstrategie der Bundesregierung <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/beirat-zur-gemeinsamen-jugendstrategie-einberufen/133714> ) serving to involve the civil society, including the federal states and leading municipal associations at federal level, in the development of the joint youth strategy;
  - the adoption of a cabinet decision on the joint youth strategy of the Federal Government (scheduled for autumn 2019);
  - the continuation of the Youth Check (Jugend-Check) <https://www.jugend-check.de/> , a tool to measure the impact that political measures at federal level have on young people;
  - the provision of direct and effective youth participation, e. g. through the YouthPolicyDays (JugendPolitikTage) in May 2019;
  - the support of digital youth participation through the project 'involve.youth.now (jugend.beteiligen.jetzt). <https://jugend.beteiligen.jetzt/>
- The 15th National Child and Youth report, published in 2017 (<https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/115438/d7ed644e1b7fac4f9266191459903c62/15-kinder-und-jugendbericht-bundestagsdrucksache-data.pdf> ), analyses the living environments of young people including the perspective of young people as a

central element and innovative approach. (The 16<sup>th</sup> National Child and Youth report will be published in the middle of the year 2020)

National initiatives and programmes running under the Ministry for Youth (BMFSFJ)

- **Initiative “To Strengthen Youth”** ([www.jugend-staerken.de](http://www.jugend-staerken.de)). Comprises several programmes directed at disadvantaged youth and youth with migration background, e.g.:
  - o **To Strengthen Youth at Local Level** (in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety). More info: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/kinder-und-jugend/integration-und-chancen-fuer-junge-menschen/jugend-staerken-im-quartier/jugend-staerken-im-quartier/72710>
  - o **To Strengthen Youth. 1000 Chances**. More info: [www.1000-chancen.de](http://www.1000-chancen.de)
  - o **Youth Migration Services**. More info: [www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de](http://www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de)
  - o **Youth Migration Services at local level**. More info: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/neues-programm-zur-staerkung-von-jugendlichen-/121306>
- **Federal programme „Living Democracy! – Active against right-wing extremism, violence and hostility”**, (2020-2024) (First period: 2015 – 2019). Supports civil society against anti-democratic tendencies and behaviour. [www.demokratie-leben.de](http://www.demokratie-leben.de)
- **Federal sports competitions at schools “Youth Trains for the Olympics”** and **“Federal Youth Games”** are the centre of extracurricular sports activities. To motivate children and young people to do sports in the long term. More info: [www.bundesjugendspiele.de](http://www.bundesjugendspiele.de)
- **Federal programme “Welcome among friends”** (2015-2018). Supports local communities in their efforts to integrate refugee children and youth. More info: [www.willkommen-bei-freunden.de](http://www.willkommen-bei-freunden.de)
- **Richtlinien ‘Garantiefonds Hochschule’**: Mit den Richtlinien "Garantiefonds Hochschule" werden Spätaussiedlerinnen und Spätaussiedler, Flüchtlinge und Zugewanderte auf dem Weg zur Hochschulreife und ins Studium unterstützt. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/kinder-und-jugend/integration-und-chancen-fuer-junge-menschen/garantiefonds-hochschule> und <https://www.bildungsberatung-gfh.de/>
- **Federal programme “Opportunities for parents II”** (Elternchance II – Familien früh für Bildung gewinnen): The sub-programme “Strong networks – Assistance for parents in refugee families” (Starke Netzwerke Elternbegleitung für geflüchtete Familien) of BMFSFJ

has an annual budget of 3 million euros and is implemented in 50 locations nationwide. Between May 2017 and December 2020, the sub-programme supports local parent assistance networks that help recently immigrated families in settling and integrating into their new environments. The aim is to offer effective support to these families locally, with a special emphasis on giving their children educational opportunities. The network members and participating family assistants build bridges between the refugee families and the educational institutions in the region. They provide hands-on help to parents, for instance with registering their children in local daycare centres, and assist them in finding their way around their new local community.

<https://www.elternchance.de/>

For more information on national programmes in the field of voluntary services see Youth Wiki “Germany – Voluntary Activities: Youth volunteering at national level”

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/25-youth-volunteering-national-level-germany>”

Programmes run/organised by other ministries/institutions than Ministry for Youth  
Federal Ministry of Education and Research:

- **Programme JOBSTARTER plus** (2014-2020). Promote innovation and development of structures in vocational education, foster better regional provision of vocational training places by mobilizing firms and enterprises. More info: [www.jobstarter.de](http://www.jobstarter.de)

Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs:

- **Federal ESF Integration Directive** (ESF-Integrationsrichtlinie Bund <http://www.esf.de/portal/DE/Foerderperiode-2014-2020/ESF-Programme/bmas/2014-10-21-ESF-Integrationsrichtlinie-Bund.html%3bjsessionid=E1144F6317BF6843F1A5EBB32FAEAB67>): aims to integrate young people and young adults with particular difficulties in accessing the labour market into work or training or encourage them to complete school education in order to get a school-leaving certificate. Based on the results and approaches applied in the former

programmes 'Integration, not exclusion (IsA)', 'Integration through exchange (IdA)' and 'Integration of asylum seekers and refugees (IvAF).

Other action plans/official strategies with an impact on youth

**National Action Plan for Integration** (Nationaler Aktionsplan Integration) in force since 2012. One important issue is the improvement of the educational and training situation of young people with migrant background. More info: <https://www.nationaler-aktionsplan-integration.de/napi-de/aktionsplan> and [www.bmi.bund.de/DE/Themen/Migration-Integration/Integration/integration\\_node.html](http://www.bmi.bund.de/DE/Themen/Migration-Integration/Integration/integration_node.html)

**Federal Government's demography strategy** (Demografiestrategie der Bundesregierung. More info: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/engagement-und-gesellschaft/demografischer-wandel-und-nachhaltigkeit/gleichwertige-lebensverhaeltnisse> and <https://www.demografie-portal.de/SharedDocs/Informieren/DE/BerichteKonzepte/Bund/Demografiestrategie.htm> !

**German Sustainable Development Strategy** (Deutsche Nachhaltigkeitsstrategie). More info: <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/nachhaltigkeitspolitik/eine-strategie-begleitet-uns/die-deutsche-nachhaltigkeitsstrategie>

**Initiative on Educational Chains** (Initiative Bildungsketten) <https://www.bildungsketten.de/de/235.php> and **Preparatory vocational measures** (Berufsvorbereitende Bildungsmaßnahmen) <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/wir-sind-umgezogen>

More info: <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/63-preventing-early-leaving-education-and-training-elet-germany>

Programmes and actions for specific target groups

- **Integration of young people with migrant background** (12 to 27 years) since 2005. Provides individual support and advice. The programme is run by the Youth Migration Services. More info: [www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de](http://www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de)

- **Girls' day – Girls' future day.** Gives female school pupils an insight into lines of work girls often do not consider in the process of choosing a future career. More info: [www.girls-day.de](http://www.girls-day.de)
- **New ways for boys**, since 2005. Encourages local initiatives to address the needs of boys who need guidance during the transitional stage between school graduation and career. More info: [www.boys-day.de](http://www.boys-day.de)

## 6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

### National level

Total budget 'child and youth policy' (Section 17 Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth) 2020: 987,834,000 € ;

- o Allocated budget in 2019 for the support of specific groups, i.e.
  - 51,249,000€ (2019) for child and youth work
  - 112,155,000 (2019) for actions fostering the social and professional integration,

(Source:

[https://www.bundeshaushalt.de/fileadmin/de.bundeshaushalt/content\\_de/dokumente/2019/soll/epl17.pdf](https://www.bundeshaushalt.de/fileadmin/de.bundeshaushalt/content_de/dokumente/2019/soll/epl17.pdf) , S. 13)

### Regional level

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

- Baden-Württemberg
  - o Allocated budget in 2020 in the regional youth plan (managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports): 28,6 Mio € (2019: 27,7 Mio. €, 2021: 29,2 Mio. €). ([https://www.landtag-bw.de/files/live/sites/LTBW/files/dokumente/WP16/Drucksachen/7000/16\\_7081\\_D.pdf](https://www.landtag-bw.de/files/live/sites/LTBW/files/dokumente/WP16/Drucksachen/7000/16_7081_D.pdf) , p. 55)
- North Rhine Westphalia (biggest federal state according to population)
  - o Allocated yearly budget in the regional child and youth plan (2018-2022, managed by the Ministry of Children, Refugees and Integration): 125,327,879 €

(2020). ([https://www.mkffi.nrw/sites/default/files/asset/document/kinder-und\\_jugendfoerderplan\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mkffi.nrw/sites/default/files/asset/document/kinder-und_jugendfoerderplan_2020.pdf) )

- Brandenburg
  - o Allocated budget in 2019-2020 for child and youth affairs (managed by the Ministry Education, Youth and Sports):
    - Youth work and youth organisations' work: 2019: 15,502,000 € (2020: 15,708,000 €)
    - Child and youth protection, Promotion of family education: 2019: 54,000 € (2020: 54,000 €)
    - Further tasks of the youth services: 2019: 47,904,000 € (2020: 40,530,000 €)
    - Child and youth services according to SGB VIII (excluding child daycare): 2019: 63,459,000 € (2020: 56,292,000 €)  
([https://mdfe.brandenburg.de/media\\_fast/4055/00\\_Haushaltsgesetz\\_2019-20\\_Beschluss.pdf](https://mdfe.brandenburg.de/media_fast/4055/00_Haushaltsgesetz_2019-20_Beschluss.pdf) , p. 51)
- Saxony-Anhalt
  - o Allocated budget in 2019-2020 for child and youth affairs (managed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and consumer protection): 2019: 136,398,600 € (2020: 138,047,000 €).  
([https://www.finanzen.sachsen.de/download/EP08\\_DHH\\_2019\\_2020.pdf](https://www.finanzen.sachsen.de/download/EP08_DHH_2019_2020.pdf) , p. 109)

## **7. European Dimension of youth policy**

This section should outline how European strategies, policy commitments and programmes are implemented at the national level.

### **7.1 Council of Europe.**

Please describe how Council of Europe programmes or activities are implemented at the national level.

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 also make use of the funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation (EYF). More info on projects supported in

the past and grant decisions for 2020: [www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation/projects-supported](http://www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation/projects-supported)

## **7.2 European Union**

### **7.2.1 Implementation of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme**

The German Agency for the European Union (EU) Programme Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION is responsible for supporting the EU Commission in putting the programme Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION into practice. The national agency allocates grants for international out-of-school activities as well as for youth initiatives. It also acts in an advisory capacity in the planning, running and organisation of projects and provides information on developments and possibilities in the programme Erasmus+ 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. The national agency helps in the search for international partners and, as a SALTO centre (Support for Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities), coordinates further training activities which are offered by all national agencies in the network.

The implementation of the Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION programme in Germany follows the priorities of the Federal Government's youth policy in the field of integrating disadvantaged young people (strengthening the participation of disadvantaged youth people in the programme activities and foster their civil engagement – *for more details see Questionnaire on Voluntary Activities, chapter 9*).

Germany is involved as a partner in **EURODESK** – the European network of information services in 34 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 ([www.eurodesk.de](http://www.eurodesk.de)) which is attached to IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany ([www.ijab.de](http://www.ijab.de)).

### **7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2019 – 2027) on the national level**

Please describe if there is a national strategy for following up the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027).

According to the federal structure of German youth policy, the core of the implementation in Germany lies within a close cooperation between the Federal Government and the *Länder*. The implementation of the EU Youth Strategy in Germany



is based on a joint decision by the Youth Ministers of all EU Member States. There is a consultation going on between the national stakeholders and the Länder at the moment. They shape the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy in Germany under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and the Supreme Youth Authorities of the *Länder*. New insights about the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy in Germany will be published mid 2020.

The entire process of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy in Germany is made visible through the website [www.jugendhilfeportal.de/eu-jugendstrategie/](http://www.jugendhilfeportal.de/eu-jugendstrategie/).

## **8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Germany**

Fachkräfteportal - information, cooperation and communication platform for experts working in child and youth services: [www.jugendhilfeportal.de/politik/kinder-und-jugendpolitik/](http://www.jugendhilfeportal.de/politik/kinder-und-jugendpolitik/)

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ): <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/kinder-und-jugend>