



YouthPartnership

FACTSHEET ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN GERMANY



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



c/o Council of Europe :: Directorate of Youth and Sport :: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France
Fax: (33) 3 88 412 778 :: E-mail: youth-partnership@coe.int :: www.youth-partnership.net

Table of contents

1) Risk of poverty	3
2) Social Subsistence/Protection	3
3) Equal opportunities	3
ANNEX 5	4
ANNEX 6	5

1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	%
At risk of poverty by age (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006	Less than 18	12,0
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: work income	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		47,5
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Unemployment benefit	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		12,2
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Family allowance	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		22,4
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		27,0
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		31,0
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		10,0
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		4,0
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Single parent with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		24,0
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household without dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		14,0
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		11,0

2) Social Subsistence/Protection

A short description of country's social protection system and list of the benefits young people are entitled to	Annex 5
---	----------------

3) Equal opportunities

A description of the forms of inequality, which young people may confront in their home country (eg. gender, religion/belief, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location related inequality)	Annex 6
--	----------------

ANNEX 5

SOCIAL SUBSISTENCE / PROTECTION IN GERMANY

Germany has one of the world's highest levels of education, technological development, and economic productivity. A generous social welfare system provides for universal medical care, unemployment compensation, and other social needs. The German social security system covers [unemployment](#), [health](#), [pension](#), [sickness](#), and [carer's insurance](#), as well as [maternity benefits](#) and [child allowances](#). The German social security is funded by contributions from the employed, employers and self-employed as well as the state, in four insurance schemes: *health insurance*, *unemployment insurance*, *nursing care insurance* and *pension insurance*. (<http://berlin.angloinfo.com/countries/germany/socsecurity.asp>)

Following the unification of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) on October 3, 1990, the social security system of the FRG remained in force and the system of the GDR continued to apply on an interim basis within the former GDR territory. The FRG and GDR systems were merged effective January 1, 1992, at which time Part VI of the Social Act came into force throughout the entire federal territory. The current law of German social insurance system is established in 2003. (<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/proqdesc/ssptw/2004-2005/europe/germany.html>)

Child and Youth Welfare Association - Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe –AGJChild, and *youth welfare in the Federal Republic of Germany* covers all activities which will be realized for and with children/youths between 0 und 18 years of age. Certain services can be provided to persons up to 27 years. The basis of these activities is *the Child and Youth Services Act*. (German Code of Social Law VIII) (<http://www.agj.de/index.php?id1=99&id2=5&id3=0>.)

Insurance policies in Germany can be divided between compulsory and voluntary insurance. Compulsory insurance falls under the German social security system. It covers all employees, students, trainees, pensioners and their respective families. It is likely you will be obliged to join the system when living in Germany, although there are some exceptions. The term 'social security' covers five main categories - the '5 pillars' of the social security system: 1.) *health insurance*, 2.) *long-term care insurance*, 3.) *pension insurance*, 4.) *unemployment insurance* and 5.) *work accident insurance*. (<http://www.justlanded.com/english/Germany/Tools/Just-Landed-Guide/Jobs/Social-security>)

In Germany the insurance system is conscripted soldiers or those doing community service instead of military service. There is a minimum qualification period of 360 days of employment over the last three years. The amount and duration of the benefit will depend on the previous income and the duration of the previous employment: *Full employment benefit* means that, if the claimant has no children, they will receive 60 percent of their previous net earnings. If caring for children under 18 years old, this rises to 67 percent. This benefit is payable for 90–360 days, depending on the length of previously insured employment and age. A full year's unemployment benefit is received if the person has worked for two calendar years or more (18 months for those aged over 55). *Subsistence allowance is another one*. This allowance is lower than ordinary unemployment benefit and is payable when the claimant cannot receive full benefit or their period of benefit has come to an end, but they are still fit to work and registered as a job-seeker. A set amount is paid for those requiring social assistance (about €350 per month). Claimants must attend training courses, and be ready to step into any job offered them by the local employment office, even a very low paid one. (<http://www.justlanded.com/english/Germany/Tools/Just-Landed-Guide/Jobs/Social-security>.)

Child Benefit allowance means that parents receive child benefit, which is paid monthly for each child up to the age of 18 (21 if unemployed, up to 27 if in full time education). A slightly higher benefit is paid for the fourth child and any further children. Parents may claim a continued allowance for disabled children over the age of 27 if they are unable to care for themselves and the disability occurred before the age of 27. Should the disabled person receive income that exceeds €7,680, they will no longer be entitled to this allowance. Claims can be made at the local family benefits fund or the local employment office. *Additional benefits* may be available to those who are on low incomes and socially disadvantaged persons. Financial payments, such as accommodation benefit (*Wohngeld*), heating benefit (*Beitrag zu den Heizkosten*) and additional child benefit (*Kinderzuschlag*), and other support are available through the social offices (*Sozialämter*) of town and city councils throughout Germany. (<http://berlin.angloinfo.com/countries/germany/socsecurity.asp>.)

Sources

<http://berlin.angloinfo.com/countries/germany/socsecurity.asp>

<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2004-2005/europe/germany.html>

<http://www.justlanded.com/english/Germany/Tools/Just-Landed-Guide/Jobs/Social-security>

<http://www.agj.de/index.php?id1=99&id2=5&id3=0>

ANNEX 6

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN GERMANY

If we think about youth welfare services or youth policy in Europe you can at least check how it is arranged in Germany. There are many structures which provide more and more equal possibilities to young people. These structures diminish discrimination etc. In Germany there is for example *The Child and Youth Welfare Association* (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe, AGJ), founded in 1949, was given its present name in 2006. It is an amalgamation of central federal youth organisations and regional youth councils, leading voluntary social welfare organisations, central specialist organisations, mainly youth authorities of the federal states (ministries), youth offices of the federal states. AGJ works at various levels: it lobbies the legislative and the executive branches of government with statements, recommendations and reports based on joint evaluated findings of the members. By making recommendations and proposals on child and youth services and by organising events of various kinds, the AGJ continuously acts towards improving conditions in the practical area of child and youth services. It holds specialist conferences and congresses both for experts and the public involved in this kind of work. Since 1995 the AGJ has been the legal entity and executive director of the National Coalition (*National Coalition für die Umsetzung der Rechte der Kinder in Deutschland*) founded to implement children's rights in Germany. (<http://www.agj.de/index.php?id1=99&id2=5&id3=0>)

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

The National Youth Council is the *German Federal Youth Council* (*Deutscher Bundesjugendring*, DBJR, <http://www.dbjr.de>). Its current membership includes 24 youth organisations, 16 regional youth councils and 5 affiliated organisations. The 5 affiliated organisations have an advisory vote. Its role and objectives are to publicly represent youth interests and common aims of the member organisations, particularly to parliament and government, to ensure an ongoing information flow between member organisations and to enable them to achieve common positions on youth policy, to cooperate with youth organisations outside Germany, particularly in the area of international youth policy. Along with committee meetings and related working groups, the German Federal Youth Council runs different information services to increase the information. (<http://www.dbjr.de/index.php?m=1&id=22>)

The European Conference "Youth in Action for Diversity and Tolerance" took place in Berlin, Germany from 6th to 9th November 2005 with the participation of 141 participants from 41 countries. There are several different portals for young people in Germany. You can find there by internet information on placements, job search, students' exchanges and much more. (http://europa.eu/youth/portals_for_young_people/index_de_en.html; <http://www.youth-against-racism.net/declaration>.)

Education

The German education system lies primarily with the [states](#) while the federal government only has a minor role. Optional [kindergarten](#) education is provided for all children between three and six years old, after which school attendance is [compulsory](#) for twelve years. In Germany, students are graded on a scale of one through six, one being high and six being very low, or failing. The [Gymnasium](#) includes the most gifted children and prepares students for university studies; the [Realschule](#) has a broader range of emphasis for intermediary students; the [Hauptschule](#) prepares pupils for vocational education, and the [Gesamtschule](#) or comprehensive school combines the three approaches. There are also Förderschulen (schools for the mentally challenged and physically challenged). One in 21 students attends a Förderschule. In order to enter a university, high school students are required to take the [Abitur](#) examination; however, students possessing a diploma from a vocational school may also apply to enter. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Germany.)

Sources

<http://www.agj.de/index.php?id1=99&id2=5&id3=0>

<http://www.bag.jugendschutz.de>

<http://www.dbjr.de/index.php?m=1&id=22>

<http://www.youth-partnership.net/export/sites/default/youth-partnership/documents/Questionnaires/Country/2007/Germany.pdf>

<http://www.youth-against-racism.net/declaration>

http://europa.eu/youth/your_rights/all_different_all_equal/index_de_en.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Germany