



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“INFORMATION”

GERMANY



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



Education and Culture DG



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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1 Information services

1.1 Legal framework of the youth information service

Youth information is not a separate sector of the child and youth services in Germany at federal level. There is no federal framework act on this sector. The Federal Government has limited responsibility. It may sponsor model initiatives and projects with supra-regional and international importance, thus stimulating and promoting developments in the *Länder* and municipalities. A large number of information and counselling options from specialist institutions, federal and *Länder* organisations are available to young people in Germany on certain topics (career counselling, education counselling, health counselling, drug prevention, etc.).

There is the right to freely access information put down in article 5 of the Constitution and is one of the basic rights of each citizen. Legal rules providing for comprehensive array of actions within the field of child and youth services are set down in the Social Code Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child & Youth Services; §§ 1/11 define the obligation by the state to provide information.

Institutions working in youth information mainly follow topics and standards set by the European Youth Information & Counselling Agency (ERYICA) and base their services on the European Youth Information Charter.

1.2 Youth information points

1.2.1 Number of youth information points at national level

Youth Information services of all regions of Germany are working together in the **youth information network** (Jugendinfonetz). The aim of the network is the development of youth information on national level. The main topics at the moment are qualification, quality and participation. The co-ordination of the network is with IJAB. IJAB - International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB) is a central specialist agency for international youth policy, international youth work and youth information which works on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), the European Commission, the IJAB member organisations and other central bodies responsible for youth work. IJAB has a coordinating role in the area of youth information on national level, also when reporting to the Council of Europe & in connection with other projects on European level. More info on the activities and members of the network: www.jugendinfonetz.de

There are also two supraregional networks of youth information services:

- *Netzwerk Süd* (Network South): youth information services in Southern Germany, here: Cafe ABdate – Jugendinformationsstelle Aschaffenburg, JIZ – Jugendinformationszentrum München, Jugend Information Nürnberg, tip – Jugendinfo & Service Augsburg and tips'n'trips – Jugendinformation Stuttgart.
- *JaN-Ko-Netzwerk* (Ost und Nord): youth information services of the *Länder* Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Brandenburg, Berlin, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Breme.

1.2.2 Number of youth information points at regional level

N/I

50 information points at local level (taken from www.jugendfonetz.de > *Organisationen und Netzwerke* > *landesweit*, as of 31st Dec. 2008)

1.3 Please list the areas covered by youth information in your country (going beyond the general youth information, such as career guidance)

Youth information covers all forms: written, oral, by phone, audiovisual and internet supported information, counselling and help. Areas covered: education, employment, further education, school & school exchange, studies, training, friendship, health, living, love, partnership, international youth work, media education & youth protection, child & girl abuse, environment, gender, funding, rights, social issues, violence, policy, Europe, events, spare time, culture, mobility, sports, travelling, vacation, addresses for further information

1.4 Are information services for young people free of charge?

Services in youth information points are free of charge.

1.5 Youth portals

1.5.1 Number of national youth portals

It is difficult to provide a number here. Examples for national youth portals are:

www.netzcheckers.de – portal run by IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany

www.schekker.de – portal run by the Federal Government

www.rausvonzuhause.de – portal run by IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany

www.fluter.de – portal run the Federal Agency for Civic Education

<http://www.dfjw.org> – portal run the German-French Youth Office

www.ahoj.info – portal run by the Coordinating Service for German-Czech Youth Exchange (Tandem)

<http://www.ukgermanconnection.org> – portal run by the British Council Germany, Federal Foreign Office & German Embassy London, Foreign & Commonwealth Office London

<http://foederalion.bundesrat.de/foederalion/index.php> – portal run by the Federal Council (Bundesrat)

www.mitmischen.de – portal run by the German Federal Parliament

<http://jetzt.sueddeutsche.de> – portal run by Süddeutsche Zeitung

<http://www.lizzynet.de> – portal run by Lizzy Net, community for young girls and women, articles about leisure and school

<http://www.lebensrausch.com> – portal for and by young people run by a network of different partners

1.5.2 Number of regional youth portals

14 youth portals (on *Länder* level)

Regional YOUTH SERVERS exist in all *Länder* except for Hesse, Northrhine-Westfalia and Saxony:

Jugendnetz Baden-Württemberg: www.jugendnetz.de (Baden-Württemberg)

Jugendarbeitsnetz Baden Württemberg (run by Regional Youth Council and

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugendfreizeitstätten Baden-Württemberg): www.jugendarbeitsnetz.de (Baden-Wuerttemberg)

Landesjugendserver Bayern: www.bjr-online.de (Bavaria)

Landesjugendserver Berlin: www.jugendnetz-berlin.de

Landesjugendserver Brandenburg: www.jugendinfo.com

Landesjugendserver Bremen: www.jugendinfo.de

Landesjugendserver Hamburg: <http://www.jugendserver-hamburg.de>

Landes-Jugendserver Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: www.jugend.inmv.de (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania)

Landes-Jugendserver Niedersachsen (run by Regional Youth Council): www.jugendserver-niedersachsen.de (Lower Saxony)

Landesjugendserver Rheinland-Pfalz (run by Landesfilmdienst Rheinland-Pfalz): www.jugend.rlp.de (Rhineland-Palatinate)

Landesjugendserver Saarland (run by Regional Youth Council Saar): www.jugendserver-saar.de

Landesjugendserver Sachsen-Anhalt (run by *Landesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung Sachsen-Anhalt - Jugendinfoservice Sachsen-Anhalt*): www.jugend-isa.de (Saxony-Anhalt)

Landesjugendserver Schleswig-Holstein (run by Regional Youth Council): www.jugendserver-sh.de

Landesjugendserver Thüringen (run by Regional Youth Council): www.yougend.com
(Thuringia)

1.5 What are the contents of the information delivered (education, employment, health, etc.)

education, employment, further education, school & school exchange, studies, training, friendship, health, living, love, partnership, international youth work & exchange, media education & youth protection, child & girl abuse, environment, gender, funding, rights, social issues, violence, policy, Europe, events, spare time, culture, mobility, sports, travelling, vacation, addresses for further information

(Sources: European Youth Portal, national/regional youth portals, www.rausvonzuhause.de)

2 Access for young people

2.1 Number of Young people using the information services

N/I

2.2 Number of Young people visiting the national and regional youth portals

www.netzcheckers.de

20369 registered users (difficult to divide between boys & girls; when talking about active users – those who produce contents – girls are more active)

www.rausvonzuhause.de

no registered users, Jan-Dec 2008: 5475218 page views (monthly average: 456 268), 4 115 979 visitors (monthly average: 342 998). Most visitors accessed website through (Top 10):

- homepage,
- Kind of programmes (Programmarten),
- Civilian service and foreign countries (Zivildienst und Ausland),
- Jobs,
- Voluntary Services (Freiwilligendienste),
- France (Frankreich)
- Study abroad (Studium)
- Local counselling (Beratung vor Ort)
- Working for nature and environment (Jobben in Natur und Umwelt)
- Spain (Spanien)

2.3 Is there any mobile information service?

Yes.

Mobil für Kinderfreundlichkeit (www.kinderfreundlichkeit.de) run by Deutsches

Kinderhilfswerk (Children's Charity of Germany, www.dkhw.de). Directed at children & young

people (8 & 14 years), children & youth beyond that age group also welcome. Van tours through Germany. Employees talk to children/young people, parents/all adults & especially listen to the needs/worries of children/ youth.

Mobile information service on youth relevant topics offered by joint project “webmobil” (www.jugend-mobil.net) in Greater Region (German-speaking Community Belgium, Luxemburg-North, Region Trier). Finished at the end of 2008.

3 Ensuring quality information

3.1 Universities that offer courses at degree level concerning youth information

University or other comparable courses concerning youth information are not offered so far.

3.2 Number of training centres specialised in youth information

In 2007 a training course was initiated which takes place at different venues and means to qualify youth workers in youth information bureaus and offices. The training contains theoretical parts on youth information in Germany and Europe and teaches the participants how to get young people involved in decision-making processes. There is also a practical part where the participants have to develop a project and present it at the end of the training. There was no course in 2008. Next course scheduled for September 2009 until October 2010. More info: www.jugendinfonetz.de

3.3 Number of information points that are following ISO quality standards

N/I

3.4 What existing monitoring systems are there on quality of information dissemination?

Such monitoring systems do not exist so far. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) supports the co-operation of experts in youth information on national level & provides funds. The process is co-ordinated by a network of actors in the field of youth information. There are three working groups within the network: participation, quality management and training & further education. The working group on quality management has developed quality criteria for youth information services which were published in 2008. More info and details: www.rabenstueck.de/contents/de/p236.html

In 2008, IJAB put forward an initiative to set up an Advisory Council on Youth Information (*Beirat Jugendinformation*). Statutory meeting scheduled for beginning of 2009. Designated

members: representatives from youth information services, specialist associations, science and research, public and non-public institutions on local, regional and national level.

The Youth Information Charter developed by ERYICA is used by most of the YICs as an orientation to check the quality of information but was not formally signed by state authorities.

4. Number of information points that facilitate career guidance

N/I

Comment: It is not possible to provide a number here because career guidance is provided by numerous institutions (job centres, youth information centres & points, etc.).

5 Participation by young people in information

5.1 Number of publications by young people

N/I

5.2 List of the existing mechanisms to involve Young people in information making

There are two important organisations organised by young people themselves: Young Presse Germany (*Jugendpresse Deutschland*, www.jugendpresse.de) and Resource Centre Youth Participation (*Servicestelle Jugendbeteiligung*, www.jugendbeteiligung.info). They provide information made by and for young people. The support of the participation of young people in information making & its dissemination is mainly up to the Regional Youth Councils and local/community youth work.

Further existing mechanisms (examples) are:

- national & regional youth portals, online-communities:

- www.netzcheckers.de - youth portal run by IJAB where young people can actively take part in information making (chats, up-/download of photos, online-diaries, etc.)
- www.youthreporter.de - portal by German National Agency YOUTH, asks young people to write reports, short stories, essays, any other about certain subjects defined on the website
- www.politikorange.de - common project by Young Presse Germany and Resource Centre Youth Participation in order to encourage young people to become active, involved, motivate others to become involved and inform others about ways of involvement
- www.respect.de - online youth community run by Deutsche Behindertenhilfe - Aktion Mensch. Topics: Identity, film & media, fashion & style, sport & action, music, art & literature, religion & spirituality, crafts & hobbies, love & sexuality, science & technology, school & career, politics & society, family & friendship, environment

- youth and pupils'/students' magazines (online &/or print) made by and for young people:

- www.schekker.de - online magazine run by the federal government, articles about politics & society
 - www.yaez.de - youth magazine for all pupils and apprentices between 10 and 21 years. Monthly edition and free-of-charge distribution at 5000 schools in Germany. Topics: friendship, love, music, film, media
 - www.spiesser.de - pupils'/students' magazine directed at young people between 14 and 22 years, distributed nationwide, edition: 1000000 copies. Topics: school, career, money, music, leisure time, media
 - www.mymercury.de - youth magazine of the supraregional newspaper *Rheinischer Merkur*. Free-of-charge distribution at 1800 schools in Germany. Edition: 300000 copies
- blogs:
- www.blogigo.de - weblog with a special section for children and youth
 - www.myblog.de - weblog with biggest community in Germany
 - <http://blog.scoutpress.de> - weblog directed ad Scout Community
 - <http://blogs.demokratie24.de/thema/jugendliche> - weblogs and podcasts on politics
- radio programmes:
- www.dasding.de - Youth Radio offered by Südwestrundfunk (SWR)
 - www.jugendradio-nrw.de - network of youth radios in Northrhine Westfalia
 - http://www.yamradio.de/player/index_index.php - radio programme of the youth magazine YAM!

There is an annual competition for pupils'/students' magazines organised by the national magazine SPIEGEL in cooperation with other partners (www.spiegel.de/schulspiegel/0,1518,255612,00.html). For the competition 2008/2009 there were more than 450 applications from pupils' magazines across Germany. There are also regional competitions of this kind.

5.3 List the existing mechanisms to involve Young people in dissemination of information

The national youth portal www.netzcheckers.de, run by IJAB, provides information relevant for youth & facilitates the participation of young people in information making & dissemination.

Peer Education is also one of the mechanisms that are used to involve young people in the dissemination of information. In Germany it has not yet reached the dimension it has got in Great Britain or the USA. Examples for peer education projects:

- Project Europeers, www.europeers.de, dissemination of information on Europe & possibilities to be active in
- Juniorteam Europa, <http://www.cap-lmu.de/fgje/index.php>, information on European integration for young people provided by young people

- teamGLOBAL, www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/WYFSU9,0,0,teamGLOBAL.html, national network of young teamers that organise youth encounters , project days, excursions, strategic games, workshops all around the topic of globalisation

The national youth information network has initiated a collection of best practise projects in the field of participation of young people in youth information. The results were published in 2008 at www.jugendinfonetz.de/wai1/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=6508 and as a reader (www.rabenstueck.de/contents/de/p237.html).