

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Voluntary Activities



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

1.1 Different types of voluntary activities that exist for young people

	Voluntary activities	Voluntary service	Civic service
Exists?	Yes	Yes	Yes

1.2 Number of young people who engage in voluntary activities

Total Number	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <i>persons</i>

1.3 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service

Total Number	3,000 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <i>persons</i>

1.4 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service abroad (excluding European Voluntary Service)

Total Number	5,500 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <i>persons</i>

1.5 Number of young people who engage in national voluntary civic service

Total Number	appr. 18400 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	appr. 13800 <i>persons</i>
Total Male	appr. 4600 <i>persons</i>

1.5.1 Number of young people who carry out their service period abroad

Total Number	appr. 1740 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <i>persons</i>

1.5.2 Is the national voluntary civic service open to young people from outside the country?

Yes **No**

1.5.3 If yes, number of young people from outside the country participating in your national voluntary civic service

Total Number	appr. 200 persons
Total Female	N/A persons
Total Male	N/A persons

1.6 Clarification of the statistics used

The Law for Children and Youth Welfare (Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz, KJHG) distinguishes the following age groups for young people: Youth: over 14, but not yet 18 Young adult: over 18, but not yet 27 Young person: those under 27 The Voluntary Year of Social Service (FSJ) or the Voluntary Year of Ecological Service (FÖJ) are open to young people from 15 to 26. In the 14th study of the German Shell were questioned more than 2500 young people from 12 to 25 years.

2 Range of voluntary activities

2.1 Voluntary activities engaged in by young people and approximate number of people involved

	Exists?	Number
a. Community activity	Yes	N/A
b. Participation/self-governance	Yes	N/A
c. Emergency response	Yes	N/A
d. Community peacekeeping	Yes	N/A
e. Social assistance	Yes	N/A
f. Personal assistance	Yes	N/A
g. Children and youth	Yes	N/A
h. Environment	Yes	N/A
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	Yes	N/A
j. Economic justice	Yes	N/A
k. Development aid	Yes	N/A
l. Humanitarian aid	Yes	N/A

	Exists?	Number
m. Religious volunteering	Yes	N/A
n. Education	Yes	N/A
o. Arts/culture	Yes	N/A
p. Sports	Yes	N/A
q. Recreation	Yes	N/A

Other voluntary activities

The #1. Freiwilligensurvey# states the following additional categories, they are nevertheless mostly included in the activities named above: public health school, kindergarden non-formal education/adult education animal protection professional representation of interests

3 Finance

3.1 Amount of finance that is annually available for voluntary activities and allocation of this finance

Total : N/A

Explanation

Voluntary Services: An estimation is difficult as there are so many different forms and ways.

Voluntary activities: An estimation is very difficult. The Child and Youth Plan of the Federation provides more than 100 million Euro per year for projects for children and young people. But this money is not spent exclusively for voluntary activities. Civic Services: The financing is normally ensured by the host organisation and by the federal states, by third-party funds and by Federal funds. In 05/06 16.225.000 Euro are spent for the funding of the Voluntary Year of Social Service (12.429.000 euro) and the Voluntary Year of Ecological Service (3.796.000 euro). In 2005 the government started the programme #Voluntary services embracing all age groups# which is backed with 10 million euros for 2005. Civilian Service: The federation finances the possibility to carry out a civic service instead of a civilian service with appr. 11 million Euros per year.

3.2 Sources of finance

public sources Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ): www.bmfsfj.de Money from the Federal States is distributed by the Federal Ministries. For contact persons see:

<http://dip.bundestag.de/btd/14/089/1408900.pdf>, p. 373#374. private sources Funds (examples) Bertelsmann Stiftung (www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de) Deutsche Kinder- und Jugendstiftung (www.dkjs.de) Heinz Nixdorf Stiftung, Arbeitsstelle #Bürgerschaftliche Initiative # freiwilliges Engagement # Ehrenamt# (www.heinz-nixdorf-stiftung.de), Körber-Stiftung (www.stiftung.koerber.de) Robert-Bosch-Stiftung (www.bosch-stiftung.de) Stiftung Bürger für Bürger (www.buerger-fuer-buerger.de) Stiftung Deutsche Jugendmarke (www.jugendmarke.de) Stiftung Mitarbeit (www.mitarbeit.de) Enterprises Examples Pro-bono projects: www.mckinsey.de/profil/firm/unternehmerischeverantwortung.htm Nationwide contest www.startsocial.de



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4 Main Actors

4.1 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

Governmental actors

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, Abteilung 2, Unterabteilung 21, Referat 211), poststelle@bmfsfj.de, www.bmfsfj.de. It provides funds for the Voluntary Year of Social Service (FSJ) and the Voluntary Year of Ecological Service (FÖJ). Information and Download of the brochures on FSJ/FÖJ (available also in English): www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/static/broschueren/fsj/index.htm Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military National Service (Bundesamt für den Zivildienst), Sibille-Hartmann-Str. 2-8, D-50969 Köln, Phone: +49 221 3673-0, Fax: +49 221 3673-4661, -4662, info@baz.bund.de, www.zivildienst.de It is a service and future oriented supreme federal authority within the remit of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Legal responsibility: correct implementation of the conscientious objector proceedings and the compulsory non-military national service.

Non governmental actors

Umbrella organisations: - Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross): www.drk.de - Arbeiterwohlfahrt (Workers' Welfare - Federal Association): www.awo.org - Internationaler Bund (International Federation): www.internationaler-bund.de - Deutscher Paritätische Wohlfahrtsverband (German Non-Denominational Welfare Association): www.paritaet.org - Jugendaufbauwerk Berlin (Berlin Youth Promotion Agency): www.jawberlin.de - Youth organisations from Protestant and Catholic churches: www.das-parlament.de/2005/44/Thema/017.html Voluntary Ecological Year: Bundesarbeitskreis FÖJ (German Union of Associations offering a Voluntary Ecological Year), FÖJ-Betreuungsstelle c/o Jugendpfarramt der Nordelbischen Kirche, goos@oeko-jahr.de, www.foej.de Voluntary Social Year in the Field of Culture: Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung - BKJ (German Union of Federal Associations for Cultural Youth Education), fsjkultur@bkj.de, <http://fsjkultur.bkj.de> Voluntary Social Year in the Field of Sports: Deutsche Sportjugend - DSJ (German Sports Youth), dsj@dsj.de, www.dsj.de Voluntary Social Year in the Field of the Preservation of Historic Monuments: Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste - IJGD (International Youth Community Services), ijgd@ijgd.de, www.ijgd.de More information about involvement in voluntary services in Germany: www.pro-fsj.de. networks: - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V. (bagfa), bagfa@bagfa.de, www.bagfa.de - Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement - Bundesgeschäftsstelle (BBE), info@b-b-e.de, www.b-b-e.de - Verbund der Freiwilligen-Zentren im Deutschen Caritasverband, freiwilligen-zentren@caritas.de, www.caritas.de/14765.html

5 Legal basis/legislation for voluntary activities in general and for young people in particular



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5.1 Legal status of volunteers

Voluntary activities and Voluntary Service No specific legal status for volunteers exists at this time. Volunteers have to act along the general legal conditions which partly regulate voluntary work, especially with the aim to protect the volunteers from the special risks of volunteering, to compensate [financial] disadvantages resulting from volunteering, to promote volunteering through possibilities of qualification or counselling offers, to create individual incentives for volunteers, to make volunteering possible. (source: Igl, G., Jachmann, M., Eichenhofer, E.. Ehrenamt und bürgerschaftliches Engagement im Recht # ein Ratgeber, Opladen 2002) Civic Service Although the relationship between volunteers of the civic service and host organisations and/or assignment locations is not considered as employment, it is treated as equivalent with employment with regard to the public law protection regulations. The relevant employee protection regulations apply, such as the Employee Protection Act (Arbeitsschutzgesetz), Workplace Ordinance (Arbeitsstättenverordnung), Youth Work Protection Act (Jugendarbeitsschutzgesetz) and Maternity Protection Act (Mutterschutzgesetz). FSJ/FÖJ participants will be covered by social insurance and will receive pension, accident, health and rehabilitation as well as unemployment insurance. (source: Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (ed.). For Myself and for Others. Voluntary Year of Social Service/Voluntary Year of Ecological Service. March 2003. Download: www.bmfsfj.de/Kategorien/Publikationen/Publikationen,did=6318.html) Civilian Service For the Civilian Service the #Act on the Alternative Civilian Service of Conscientious Objectors# is in force. In accordance with this law, the young men doing alternative service shall not have any disadvantages in the field of social rights or social insurance. Therefore, they can get grants to the social insurances and other benefits. www.zivildienst.de

5.2 Taxation/tax exemptions for volunteers and volunteer organisations

There are very little taxation/tax exemptions for volunteers. Many of the volunteers, in contrast, pay for the costs rising from their activities as for example gasoline, telephone, training, etc. If they get expense allowances, these are up to a certain sum tax-free. Tax exemptions for non-profit making volunteer organisations do exist. Tax exemptions for non-profit making volunteer organisations do exist.

5.3 Existence of social protection of volunteers

Voluntary Activities In many cases the organisation where the volunteer is active pays for an accident insurance. Some groups benefit from the legal accident insurance (at first hand is determined for employees). Each volunteer can protect himself with a personal liability insurance, but not all of the voluntary activities are included in these private insurances. In this case the organisation, where they work, is responsible for the insurance. Some of the Federal States have made up group insurances for volunteers, that give protection in case no other insurance is in charge. Voluntary Service Volunteers who carry out a voluntary service have to care about their insurances themselves. Often, the organisation offering the places, helps. Voluntary Services abroad For those, carrying out a voluntary service abroad, additional insurances and measures for the social welfare are necessary, depending on the host country's conditions. Questions are



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answered by the fid Services- und Beratungsstelle of the AGEH:

www.ageh.de/fid/grundl_recht.htm. Civic Service During the civic service (Voluntary Year of Social Service # FSJ; Voluntary Year of Ecological Service # FÖJ) the participants are generally insured as independent members in the government insurance plan. For participants, who carry out the FSJ or the FÖJ abroad the organisations sending the participants abroad are obliged to take care of the necessary social insurances and to guarantee the necessary insurances protection in the foreign country. For participants, who carry out the FSJ or the FÖJ abroad, child allowance is paid on. Civilian Service For the civilian service the #Gesetz über den Zivildienst der Kriegsdienstverweigerer# is valid (www.zivildienst.org/a/a1.htm). In accordance with this law, the young men doing alternative service shall not have any disadvantages in the field of social rights or social insurance. Therefore, they can get grants for the social insurances and other benefits.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

Unemployed people can participate in voluntary activities without having disadvantages in respect to their earnings-related benefits. This is regulated by the #JobAQTIV# law. It says, that a voluntary work is as long irrelevant for the reception of earnings-related benefits as the professional integration is not affected. If the activities take more than 15 hours a week it has to be reported to the job centre (Arbeitsagentur).

6 Programmes

6.1 Programmes and plans on volunteering (national, regional, local)

- national The Voluntary Year of Social Service (FSJ) and the Voluntary Year of Ecological Service (FÖJ) offer anyone who has finished his/her obligatory period of full-time schooling, is under age of 27, and would like to volunteer 6 to 18 months of their time to apply to complete a voluntary year in Germany or abroad (only up to 12 months). FSJ and FÖJ are supported by legislation and by the federal government. Information and download of the brochure (also in English):

www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/static/broschueren/fsj/index.htm. In spring 2005, the government startet the

new program #Generationsübergreifende Freiwilligendienste# (Voluntary services embracing all

age groups): www.bmfsfj.de. - regional Baden-Württemberg: www.ehrenamt-bw.de,

www.buergerengagement.de, www.km-bw.de Bavaria: www.wir-fuer-uns.net Berlin:

www.berlin.de/beepport, www.berlin.de/buergeraktiv/ehrenamt Brandenburg:

www.lja.brandenburg.de, www.ljr-brandenburg.de Bremen: www.freiwillig-in-bremen.de,

www.buergerstiftung-bremen.de Rhineland-Palatine: [wir-tun-was.de](http://www.wir-tun-was.de) Hamburg:

www.engagement.hamburg.de, www.aktivoli.de Hessen: www.gemeinsam-aktiv.de

Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania: www.netzwerk-mv.net Lower Saxony: www.freiwilligenserver.de

North Rhine Westphalia: www.engagiert-in-nrw.de Saarland: www.pro-ehrenamt.de Saxony:

www.wir-fuer-sachsen.de Saxony-Anhalt: www.sachsen-anhalt.de; www.freistil-lsa.de

Schleswig-Holstein: www.ehrenamt-sh.de, www.lebensraum-schulhof.de Thuringia:

www.thueringen.de/de/tmsfg/, www.thueringer-ehrenamtsstiftung.de - local Most of all, voluntary



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activities take place at local level. There is a big variety of innovative offers to be active in the voluntary area and a wide range of local organisations whose target is to promote voluntary activities. More information on local activities are available at the web sites of the federal states (see information on regional programmes) or the communities in question (www.nameofthecity.de).

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

7.1 Relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service

The civilian service is based on the compulsory military service. It is a service which is regulated by the state and is considered (as is the basic military service) as a service under public law with detailed legal regulations. These laws do not exist for the civic service (Voluntary Year of Social Service # FSJ; Voluntary Year of Ecological Service - FÖJ), but the laws regulating these services determine the minimum standards for the protection of the volunteers and avoid disadvantages. Other voluntary services and activities are not regulated by law.

7.2 Perspectives for the creation of a voluntary civic service in countries where it does not exist

There is a voluntary civic service in Germany.

8 Development of voluntary activities, including standards/instruments aiming at securing and enhancing quality in voluntary activities

8.1 Recent (this year) developments in the area of voluntary activities

In spring 2005 the government started the new program #Generationsübergreifende Freiwilligendienste (Voluntary services embracing all age groups)#, which is backed with 10 million euros for 2005. The money is spent for more than 50 projects. (source: BMFSFJ; www.bmfsfj.de) In April/May 2003 the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and the central federal statutory bodies decided on the new terms of support for the Voluntary Year of Social Service (FSJ). They are valid until August 2006. In this document the minimum standards for the pedagogical care were fixed. Furthermore, it was agreed that the instruments of assurance and enhancing quality in voluntary activities and the screening and guarantee of these is the task of the central federal organisations. For the FÖJ the Federal States and the BMFSFJ determined the pedagogical frame in June 1997. The conception formulates conditions for the pedagogical support, quality standards and agreements on the quality assurance. (Quelle: Deutscher Bundestag, Drucksache 15/5416)

8.2 What are the trends concerning the range of voluntary activities?



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Increasing ~~Decreasing~~ Stable

Explanation

Voluntary activities The first study on voluntary activities in Germany (1. Freiwilligensurvey, 1999) states that 34% of the interviewed persons were engaged in voluntary activities, whereas the second study (2004) stated 36%. Within the age group 14#25 the percentage nevertheless fell from 36% in 1999 to 35% in 2004. (source: BMFSFJ/tns infratest (ed.). 2. Freiwilligensurvey 2004 # Ehrenamt Freiwilligenarbeit, Bürgerschaftliches Engagement. Kurzzusammenfassung, 2005: www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Arbeitsgruppen/Pdf-Anlagen/2.freiwilligensurvey-kurzzusammenfassung.pdf)

Civic Service The number of participants in the civic service programs (Voluntary Year of Social Service # FSJ; Voluntary Year of Ecological Service - FÖJ) has risen steadily since the mid-nineties. Since the changes in the #Act on the Alternative Civilian Service of Conscientious Objectors# (which now allows young men to participate in the civic service instead of doing civilian service) the share of young men has risen until 2004 to more than a quarter of all participants. (source: Rauschenbach, Thomas. Freiwilligendienste # von einem generationsspezifischen zu einem generationsübergreifenden Angebot. Impulsreferat auf der Fachtagung #40 Jahre FSJ/10 Jahre FÖJ# am 02.07.04 in Berlin, veranstaltet vom BMFSFJ; www.bmfsfj.de/doku/jubilaem-fsj-foej/impulsreferate/referat4.htm)

8.3 Description of quality standards used in voluntary activities

In Germany, there are no general and binding quality standards so far. Nevertheless, there has been a discussion about the introduction of quality standards for ten years. Information on the subjects of discussion and who is involved can be retrieved from the website of the network BBE. Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement # Bundesgeschäftsstelle Ernst-Reuter-Haus Strasse des 17. Juni 112 D-10623 Berlin Phone: +49 30 39886436 Fax: +49 30 3983861 E-Mail: info@b-b-e.de Internet: www.b-b-e.de The network organisation of voluntary agencies, bagfa, has developed quality standards for the work of these agencies, using for example the results of the project #Qualität in Freiwilligendiensten # Quifd# (www.quifd.de). Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V. bagfa Torstraße 231 D-10115 Berlin Phone: +49 30 20453366 Fax: +49 30 28094699 E-Mail: bagfa@bagfa.de Internet: www.bagfa.de

8.4 Description of measures to improve the quality of voluntary activities for young people

Trainings and evaluation measures are individual for each project. The academy for volunteering germany The academy for volunteering is a training institution especially for volunteering, citizen engagement and honorary post. It offers advanced education programmes for honorary and professionally staffmembers and volunteers of the third sector all over Germany. The academy is a project of the found for youth and socialwork (fjs Förderverein für Jugend und Sozialarbeit e.V.), located in Berlin; fjs is a charitable NPO and umbrella organisation with many projects in children-, youth and social work and also in multi- media application for educational and social work. Akademie für Ehrenamtlichkeit Deutschland (fjs e.V.) Comeniushof Gubener Str. 47 10243 Berlin-Friedrichshain Tel.: ++49/30/275 49 38 Fax: ++49/30/279 01 26 E-mail: akademie@ehrenamt.de Internet: www.ehrenamt.de



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9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 The facilitation of young people's voluntary engagement

Young people are encouraged to voluntary activities through various information campaigns and, newly, in some federal states through the inclusion of voluntary activities in the curriculum in the schools. Examples Information campaigns With the slogan **#Engagement macht stark#** (Being active makes you strong) the federal network **Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (bbe)** has started a campaign to promote and to increase voluntary activities in Germany. Some of the highlights are: Action days/action week, poster advertising, post card campaign. More info:

www.engagement-macht-stark.de Recognition In many communities the **#Day of the Volunteer#** is celebrated. At this day, people who are especially committed are honoured. The initiative **#für mich, für uns, für alle#** (for me, for us, for all) is aimed at the promotion of voluntary activities in Germany and wants to thank all the unknown volunteers. Volunteers shall get support, interested people shall be won over for voluntary activities and the associated area of voluntary activities shall be improved. The initiative awards citizens, who showed an extraordinary commitment in the field of voluntary work (www.buerger-engagement.de/1_initiative/index.php). Especially, to win young people for voluntary work the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the German Federal Youth Council every two years announce the **Heinz Westphal Preis**, remunerated with 15.000 Euro (<http://heinz-westphal-preis.de>). School The **Projekt #EmS # Engagement macht Schule#** in Saxonia-Anhalt e.g., supports and accompanies schools that wish to introduce the concept of **#service learning#**. Service learning combines the teaching of knowledge in school with the solution of concrete tasks in the community. The project is part of the federal programme **#Lebenswelt # Jugend leistet sich Gesellschaft#** of the DKJS and the Jacobs Stiftung (www.projektems.de). see also 10.2

9.2 Recent (this year) measures to remove obstacles to young people's volunteering

In 2005 several campaigns aiming at the recognition of voluntary activities and honorary engagement took place. They were accompanied by the poster campaign **#Engagement macht stark#** animating the citizens of Germany to engage in voluntary activities (www.engagement-macht-stark.de). To translate the recommendations of the committee **"Impulse für die Zivilgesellschaft # Perspektiven für Freiwilligendienste und Zivildienst in Deutschland"** into action, in 2005 the new programme **#Generationsübergreifende Freiwilligendienste#** (Voluntary services embracing all age groups) was initiated (period: 3 years). People of all age groups have the possibility to engage in a voluntary service. The two laws regulating the promotion of the Voluntary Year of Social Service and the Voluntary Year of Ecological Service are evaluated at the time. The evaluation will probably give more information on the development of the civic service programmes.



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9.3 Existing obstacles

Especially concerning the Voluntary Service it can be stated that there are not enough places. Every year the number of applicants is much higher than the number of places. In average, there are about twice as much interested people as there are places in the programme.

10 Promotion of voluntary activities for young people

10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth: www.bmfsfj.de (information about the civic service programmes) International Youth Exchange and Visitors' Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB e. V.): info@ijab.de, www.ijab.de and www.rausvonzuhause.de (information about voluntary activities abroad) Eurodesk: eurodeskde@eurodesk.org, www.eurodesk.de (information about voluntary activities abroad) Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement # Bundesgeschäftsstelle: info@b-b-e.de, www.b-b-e.de (practical impulses for the promotion of volunteering and civic engagement; support of good practice; exchange of experience). Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V. bagfa: bagfa@bagfa.de, www.bagfa.de (projects and activities to promote the societal acceptance of voluntary work, especially to persuade young people and enterprises to engage voluntarily) Information about and offers of voluntary services abroad Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e.V., Bonn, www.friedensdienst.de Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend e.V., Hannover, www.evangelische-jugend.de Arbeitskreis Internationaler Gemeinschaftsdienste e.V., Marburg, www.aig-ev.de Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Internationale Soziale Dienste e.V., Köln Bund Ostdeutscher Gemeinschaftsdienste e.V., Berlin, www.vjf.de Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste e.V., Bonn, www.ijgd.de Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr, www.pro-fsj.de Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr, www.foej.de

10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

Examples www.engagement-macht-stark.de With the slogan #Engagement macht stark# (Being active makes you strong) the federal network Bürgerschaftliches Engagement has started a campaign to promote and to increase voluntary activities in Germany. Some of the highlights are: Action days/action week, poster advertising, post card campaign (post cards saying #thank you# to all voluntary persons being distributed in pubs and public places). More info: www.engagement-macht-stark.de Civil Academy 2005 The Civil Academy 2005 offers training for young people between 18 and 27 years who have a good idea for a project and want to be active on a voluntary basis. More info: www.b-b-e.de/civil_academy.html. Sympathiekampagne 2005 The #Sympathiekampagne 2005: Hingehört # hergeschaut: Jugendfreiwilligendienste hautnah!# should inform politicians about the meaning and social importance of voluntary services of young people. Young people had the opportunity to invite a member of the parliament to their hosting office to make them aware of the fun and the winning aspects of a civic service and to get more attention for their engagement. More info: Bundesarbeitskreis FSJ: info@pro-fsj.de, Bundesarbeitskreis



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FÖJ: goos@oeko-jahr.de Social Day (Sozialer Tag) The Social Day is a special day for many pupils in Germany. On this day, lessons do not take place in school, but #help# is on the time-table. Pupils work in different places and donate their wage for youth projects all over the world. The organisations #Aktion Tagwerk# and #Schüler Helfen Leben# will organise the first nationwide Social Day in 2006, which is scheduled for June 22nd (www.sozialertag.de)

10.3 Initiatives to promote voluntary activities among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

N/A

11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

11.1 Initiatives for recognition 'good practices'

examples Jugendleiter/in-Card (Juleica) The #Jugendleiter/in-Card (Juleica)# is a document for volunteers in the field of youth work, who work for a voluntary organisation or a statutory body, have a standardized qualification and are minimum 16 years old. The card documents the engagement and the qualification of the youth leaders and gives various reductions for community services, cultural offers, etc. (www.juleica.net). Qualipass The #Qualipass# for young people (age 12 to 25 years) is a campaign of the federal state Baden-Württemberg. It documents the various activities of young people outside of the classroom, by which they learn something # not only voluntary activities, but also jobs, computer classes, exvhnge experiences, etc. (www.qualipass.info). Heinz|Westphal|Preis Especially, to win young people for voluntary work the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring) every two years announce the Heinz|Westphal|Preis, remunerated with 15.000 Euro (<http://heinz-westphal-preis.de>). Voluntary Year of Social Service/Voluntary Year of Ecological Service Participants of the FSJ or FÖJ can get a qualified reference from their work place, that helps to proof the acquired abilities and experiences. Many universities recognise the FSJ and the FÖJ as a pre-study practical (Vorpraktikum).

11.2 Measures of societal recognition

examples Initiative #für mich, für uns, für alle# (for me, for us, for all) The initiative #für mich, für uns, für alle# (for me, for us, for all) is aimed at the promotion of voluntary activities in Germany and wants to thank all the unknown volunteers. Volunteers shall get support, interested people shall be won over for voluntary activities and the associated area of voluntary activities shall be improved. The initiative awards citizens, who showed an extraordinary commitment in the field of voluntary work (www.buerger-engagement.de/1_initiative/index.php). Voluntary competition #Echt gut# (#Really good#) Groups, associations and single persons, who are voluntarily active in Baden-Württemberg, could participate in 2005 in the competition #Echt gut!# # Voluntary Engagement in Baden-Württemberg#. The comepetition was divided in seven categories, and a jury made a preselection from all entries, which were presented in the internet and in all local branches of the Sparkasse (savings bank). All inhabitants of Baden-Wuerttemberg then had the



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chance to vote for their favourites. More information: www.echt-gut-bw.de. Ehrenamts card With the #Ehrenamts card# offered by the federal state Hessen volunteers, who are engaged in a high degree (i.e., at least 5 hours per week), can count with reductions for public and private offers. It is similar to the #Juleica# but open for all age groups (www.gemeinsam-aktiv.de/ehrenamts_card.cfm).

12 Co-operations and networks, exchange of volunteers, transnational and international cooperation

12.1 Networks who promote voluntary activities of young people

International Youth Exchange and Visitors' Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB) e.V.: www.ijab.de, www.rausvonzuhause.de - central specialist agency for international youth policy, youth work and youth information - promotes international youth work and cooperation Eurodesk: www.eurodesk.de - European network of information services providing access to European information for young people and those who work with them Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V. bagfa: www.bagfa.de - network organisation of local and regional voluntary agencies - aims at promoting the societal acceptance of voluntary work Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement: www.b-b-e.de - network on the German national level linking civil-society organisations with corporations and foundations as well as governmental bodies Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr der bundeszentralen Trägerverbände und Zentralstellen, www.pro-fsj.de - joins the central federal statutory bodies and the central points of the Voluntary Year of Social Service - co-ordination and development of the Voluntary Year of Social Service. Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr, www.foej.de - nationwide representation of common interests of all bodies of the Voluntary Year of Ecological service - counselling and exchange of experiences Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Übersee" e.V. (AK LHÜ), www.entwicklungsdienst.de - advises people who would like to work abroad in a social area - organises professional postings of specialists, short or long term involvement of young people and adults in youth voluntary and social peace services Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e.V. (AGDF), www.friedensdienst.de - promotes and implements measures serving the cause of peace coordinating long-term and short-term voluntary service organisations, gaining recognition and funding for voluntary services in international youth work

12.2 Exchange of information, experience and good practices

Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement # Bundesgeschäftsstelle info@b-b-e.de, www.b-b-e.de The Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (BBE) is a network on the German national level linking civil-society organisations with corporations and foundations as well as federal and local governmental bodies. It consists of more than 150 member organisations # most of them being large umbrella organisations themselves. Common aim is the strengthening of civil society and civic engagement. Focus of interest is the improvement of the legal, institutional and organisational framework of volunteering. It attends to encourage, support and promote examples of good practice in the Third Sector, state and economy, and works to sensitize and



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raise public and political awareness. Topics are: Frame conditions, qualification/education, voluntary services, perspectives of a local civic society, migration/integration, corporate citizenship, civic engagement and welfare state, European civil society and civil dialogue, Civil Academy, net for citizens. Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V. bagfa bagfa@bagfa.de, www.bagfa.de The bagfa is a network organisation of local and regional voluntary agencies. Its aims are projects and activities to promote the societal acceptance of voluntary work, especially to win young people and enterprises for voluntary activities. Topics are: general promotion of democracy; amelioration of the frame conditions of voluntary, honorary and civic engagement; public relations work to promote voluntary activities; sending of experts in societal and political bodies/committees dealing with voluntary work; support through qualifying offers and conferences; development of concepts for qualification; publication of statements.

12.3 Exchange for young volunteers: at all levels (transnational, national, regional, between communities)

International voluntary services: more information from Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Übersee" e.V. (AK LHÜ), www.entwicklungsdienst.de European Voluntary Service (EVS): more information from the National Agency for the EU Action Programme YOUTH: www.go4europe.de Voluntary Year of Social Service/Voluntary Year of Ecological Service within Germany or abroad: more information at www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/fsj-foej.html voluntary services on regional and local level through federal model project "Generationsübergreifende Freiwilligendienste" (Voluntary services embracing all age groups): more information at www.fsj-web.org/deutsch/pdf/Kurzbeschreibung%20Projekt.pdf

12.4 Collective volunteering projects

12.4.1 Collective volunteering projects (where large numbers of volunteers jointly assist in cultural or sporting events, or where they help in humanitarian/natural disaster situations)

Description of projects (including future projects)

Weltjugendtag in Köln 2005 At the World Youth Day Cologne, August 16th # 21st, 2005, 23.000 short-term volunteers (18.000 from Germany) and 138 long-term volunteers were active (www.wjt2005.de). Deutscher Katholikentag The 96th Day of the German Catholic Church 2006 takes place in Saarbrücken, May 24th #28th. About 1.400 voluntary helpers are needed. Interested groups or persons are invited to help. Volunteers from foreign countries with good knowledge of German are also welcome. The volunteers get lodging and food for free and reimbursement of travel costs (in Germany). The minimum age is 18 years or 16 years, if the person is part of a group with a leader over 18 and has permission of the parents (www.katholikentag.de). Fußballweltmeisterschaft 2006 About 15.000 volunteers will be needed for the FIFA World Cup. The training will start in April 2006. To be taken on as a volunteer, the following requirements must be met: minimum age 18 on 1 June 2006, good command of German, for most jobs basic knowledge of English, minimum availability to work on all matchdays. Experience in the world of



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sport and/or voluntary work would be an advantage. Alongside these requirements, the decisive factor will be the desire and passion to live the 2006 FIFA World Cup# at first hand. Applications for the volunteer programme will be accepted exclusively via the internet from January to February 2006. Every volunteer will be presented with a uniform from adidas. The Volunteer Centre will be open for refreshment and relaxation during breaks, and the OC 2006 FIFA World Cup will cover the cost of public transportation to and from the place of work. After the tournament, efforts will be recognised with a diploma (<http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com/06/en/o/volunteers/index.html>).
Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag The 31st Day of the German Protestant Church takes place in 2007, June 6th#10th in Cologne (www.kirchentag.de).
Details of programme/project
see above (12.4.1)

12.4.2 Possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects

See comments on the described projects above (12.4.1).

12.5 International solidarity volunteer service

12.5.1 International solidarity voluntary service in the EU and the world (e.g. in human/natural disaster situations, civil protection, humanitarian aid, development assistance, capacity-building etc.)

Many young people engage voluntarily in the field of international solidarity. These activities are, nevertheless, statistically barely known. Many of the sending organisations of international programs have joined together in the Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Übersee" e.V.. The organisation has counted the number of participants in international voluntary services for the year 2003, but there is a big question mark about the number of people who organise their voluntary services completely on their own.

Details of programme/project

More information about the study on participants in international voluntary services ("Teilnehmer/innen an internationalen Freiwilligendiensten, entsandte Fachkräfte und Entwicklungshelfer/innen im Jahre 2003", edited by Arbeitskreis #Lernen und Helfen in Übersee# e.V., Bonn 2004) can be given by the Arbeitskreis #Lernen und Helfen in Übersee" that also informs about his members and their programmes. Contact: Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Übersee" e.V. (AK LHÜ), Thomas-Mann-Straße 52, D-53111 Bonn, Phone: +49 228 9089912.

12.5.2 Major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries

Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Übersee" e.V. (AK LHÜ), aklhue@entwicklungsdienst.de, www.entwicklungsdienst.de, www.oneworld-jobs.org The AK LHÜ is the network office for state recognised development services, for youth voluntary and peace services and other organisations. It advises people wishing to work abroad in a social area. This concerns professional postings



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and short or long term involvement in youth voluntary services and social peace services. Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden e.V. (AGDF), agdf@friedensdienst.de, www.friedensdienst.de The AGDF is an umbrella organisation of ecumenically oriented peace and voluntary service organisations and institutions. Its activities include the planning, promotion and implementation of measures serving the cause of peace by coordinating long-term and short-term voluntary service organisations whose aim is to promote peace. It strives to gain recognition and funding for voluntary services in international youth work.

12.5.3 The degree of involvement of the government/state institutions in supporting international solidarity service in non-EU countries

The civic services (Voluntary Year of Social Service # FSJ; Voluntary Year of Ecological Service - FÖJ) can be spent abroad, if the host organisation's headquarters are located in Germany. Recognised conscientious objectors may also spend a civic service abroad. They can also do a so called #Other Service Abroad (Anderer Dienst im Ausland)# in the field of international understanding or development work for at least two years.

13 Studies & Surveys

13.1 Recent surveys or research on the topic of voluntary activities

Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (ed.). Freiwilliges Engagement in Deutschland # Freiwilligensurvey 1999. Ergebnisse der Repräsentativerhebung 1999 zu Ehrenamt, Freiwilligenarbeit und bürgerschaftlichem Engagement. Band 1 (Bernhart von Rosenblatt): Freiwilliges Engagement in Deutschland. Gesamtbericht, Band 2 (Joachim Braun, Helmut Klages): Zugangswege zum freiwilligen Engagement und Engagementpotenzial in den neuen und alten Bundesländern, Band 3 (Sibylle Picot): Frauen und Männer, Jugend, Senioren und Sport, Kohlhammer, Stuttgart, Berlin, Köln 2000. Short version: www.kiju-web.de/pdf/kurzform.pdf Deutscher Bundestag (Hrsg.). Bericht der Enquete-Kommission #Zukunft des Bürgerschaftlichen Engagements#. Bürgerschaftliches Engagement: auf dem Weg in eine zukunftsfähige Bürgergesellschaft. Bundestagsdrucksache 14/8900, 3/6/2002.

<http://dip.bundestag.de/btd/14/089/1408900.pdf> Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend /tns infratest(ed.) Second Survey on Voluntary Activities #2. Freiwilligensurvey 2004 # Ehrenamt Freiwilligenarbeit, Bürgerschaftliches Engagement#. Full report available in 2006.

Download short version:

www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Arbeitsgruppen/Pdf-Anlagen/2.freiwilligensurvey-kurzzusammenfassung

Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (ed.). Perspektiven für Freiwilligendienste und Zivildienst in Deutschland. Bericht der Kommission Impulse für die Zivilgesellschaft. Berlin 2004:

www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/impulse-fuer-die-zivilgesellschaft.html Arbeitskreis #Lernen und Helfen in Übersee# e.V. (ed.) #Teilnehmer/innen an internationalen Freiwilligendiensten, entsandte Fachkräfte und Entwicklungshelfer/innen im Jahre 2003#. Bonn 2004: www.entwicklungsdienst.de. The two laws regulating the promotion of the Voluntary Year of



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Voluntary Activities

Social Service and the Voluntary Year of Ecological Service are evaluated at the time. More information: www.bmfsfj.de.



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