

# 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, 2006**

### **1 Statistics**

#### **1.1 Different types of voluntary activities that exist for young people**

	Voluntary activities	Voluntary service	Civic service
<b>Exists?</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes

#### **1.2 Number of young people who engage in voluntary activities**

<b>Total Number</b>	3803905.8* <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>

#### **1.3 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service**

<b>Total Number</b>	3000 <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>

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

<b>Total Number</b>	appr. 5287* <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>

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

<b>Total Number</b>	19100 <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>

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

<b>Total Number</b>	approx. 800 <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/I <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	N/I <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/I <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/I <i>persons</i>

### 1.6 Clarification of the statistics used

- BMFSFJ/tns infratest (Editors). Freiwilliges Engagement in Deutschland 1999 - 2004.

Kurzfassung. 2005.

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Arbeitsgruppen/Pdf-Anlagen/freiwilligen-survey-kurzfassung,proper>

Age group #young people#: 14 # 25 years - Arbeitskreis #Lernen und Helfen in Uebersee# e.V.

(Editor). Teilnehmer/innen an internationalen Freiwilligendiensten, entsandte Fachkraefte und Entwicklungshelfer/innen im Jahre 2004. Bonn 2005.

[www.entwicklungsdienst.de/fileadmin/users/Publikationen\\_AKLHUE/Teilnehmer\\_an\\_IntFD\\_und\\_PZ\\_im\\_Ja](http://www.entwicklungsdienst.de/fileadmin/users/Publikationen_AKLHUE/Teilnehmer_an_IntFD_und_PZ_im_Ja)

Age group #young people#: 17 - 27 years - 15. Shell Jugendstudie: #Jugend 2006 # Eine

pragmatische Generation unter Druck#. [www.shell-jugendstudie.de](http://www.shell-jugendstudie.de) Age group: 12 # 25 years -

BMFSFJ (Editor). Perspektiven fuer Freiwilligendienste und Zivildienst in Deutschland. Bericht der Kommission Impulse fuer die Zivilgesellschaft. Berlin, 2004.

## 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/I
b. Participation/self-governance	Yes	N/I
c. Emergency response	Yes	N/I
d. Community peacekeeping	Yes	N/I
e. Social assistance	Yes	N/I
f. Personal assistance	Yes	N/I
g. Children and youth	Yes	N/I
h. Environment	Yes	N/I

	Exists?	Number
<b>i. Human rights, advocacy and politics</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>j. Economic justice</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>k. Development aid</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>l. Humanitarian aid</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>m. Religious volunteering</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>n. Education</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>o. Arts/culture</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>p. Sports</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>q. Recreation</b>	Yes	N/I

Other voluntary activities

The 2nd Survey on Voluntary Engagement in Germany 1999-2004 states the following additional categories: - public health, - school, kindergarden, - animal protection, - professional representation of interests/policy, - justice and delinquency problems.

## 3 Finance

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

**Total** : 16225000

Explanation

Amount spent exclusively for the funding of the Voluntary Years of Social Service (FSJ; 12429000 #) / Ecological Service (FOEJ; 3796000 #). Foreseen for 2007: one million Euro extra for voluntary services Voluntary activities Estimation of financial support of voluntary activities very difficult Voluntary Services Funding from voluntary workers & their parents themselves, private organisations & associations, churches (for voluntary services abroad), lottery income, foundations as co-financing partners (increasingly) Civic Services Financing of the Voluntary Years of Social Service/Ecological Service (FSJ/FOEJ) normally ensured by host organisation/assignment location & federal states (total of appr. 90%), third-party funds, federal funds (Child & Youth Plan of the Federation, civilian service). Civilian Service Expenses for the civilian service not covered by the federation, but by responsible departments & the social security bodies.

### 3.2 Sources of finance

public: - Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth: [www.bmfsfj.de](http://www.bmfsfj.de) - Federal States distributed by the Federal Ministries. For contact persons see: <http://dip.bundestag.de/btd/14/089/1408900.pdf>, p. 373#374. Private: - funds (examples) Bertelsmann Stiftung: [www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de](http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de) Deutsche Kinder- und Jugendstiftung: [www.dkjs.de](http://www.dkjs.de) Heinz Nixdorf Stiftung, Arbeitsstelle #Buergerschaftliche Initiative # freiwilliges Engagement # Ehrenamt#: [www.heinz-nixdorf-stiftung.de](http://www.heinz-nixdorf-stiftung.de) Koerber-Stiftung:



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[www.stiftung.koerber.de](http://www.stiftung.koerber.de) Robert-Bosch-Stiftung: [www.bosch-stiftung.de](http://www.bosch-stiftung.de) Stiftung Buerger fuer Buerger: [www.buerger-fuer-buerger.de](http://www.buerger-fuer-buerger.de) Stiftung Deutsche Jugendmarke: [www.jugendmarke.de](http://www.jugendmarke.de) Stiftung Mitarbeit: [www.mitarbeit.de](http://www.mitarbeit.de) Aktion Mensch: <http://diegesellschaft.de/aktion/foerderprogramm/index.php> - enterprises (examples) Pro-bono projects: [www.mckinsey.de/profil/firm/unternehmerischeverantwortung.htm](http://www.mckinsey.de/profil/firm/unternehmerischeverantwortung.htm) Nationwide contest #startsocial#: [www.startsocial.de](http://www.startsocial.de)

## 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 fuer Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend) Abteilung 2, Unterabteilung 21, Referat 211 Rochusstr. 8 # 10, 53123 D-Bonn [poststelle@bmfsfj.de](mailto:poststelle@bmfsfj.de), [www.bmfsfj.de](http://www.bmfsfj.de) The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth provides funds for the Voluntary Year of Social Service & the Voluntary Year of Ecological Service. Information & download of the brochure (also available in English): [www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/fsj-foej.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/fsj-foej.html) The Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military National Service (Bundesamt fuer den Zivildienst) Sibille-Hartmann-Str. 2-8, D-50969 Koeln [info@baz.bund.de](mailto:info@baz.bund.de), [www.zivildienst.de](http://www.zivildienst.de)

#### Non governmental actors

Umbrella organisations: - Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross): [www.drk.de](http://www.drk.de) - Arbeiterwohlfahrt (Workers' Welfare - Federal Association): [www.awo.org](http://www.awo.org) - Internationaler Bund (International Federation): [www.internationaler-bund.de](http://www.internationaler-bund.de) - Der Paritaetische Wohlfahrtsverband (Equal Representation Welfare Association): [www.paritaet.org](http://www.paritaet.org) - Jugendaufbauwerk Berlin (Berlin Youth Promotion Agency): [www.jawberlin.de](http://www.jawberlin.de) - Youth organisations from Protestant & Catholic churches: [www.das-parlament.de/2005/44/Thema/017.html](http://www.das-parlament.de/2005/44/Thema/017.html) Voluntary Ecological Year: German Union of Associations offering a Voluntary Ecological Year (Bundesarbeitskreis FOEJ), FOEJ-Betreuungsstelle c/o Jugendpfarramt der Nordelbischen Kirche, [goos@oeko-jahr.de](mailto:goos@oeko-jahr.de), [www.foej.de](http://www.foej.de) Voluntary Social Year in the field of culture: German Union of Federal Associations for Cultural Child and Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Kinder- und Jugendbildung e.V., BKJ), [fsjkultur@bkj.de](mailto:fsjkultur@bkj.de), <http://fsjkultur.bkj.de> Voluntary Social Year in the field of sports: German Sports Youth (Deutsche Sportjugend, DSJ), [fsj@dsj.de](mailto:fsj@dsj.de), [www.freiwilligendienste-im-sport.de](http://www.freiwilligendienste-im-sport.de) Voluntary Social Year in the field of the preservation of historic monuments: International Youth Community Services (IJGD), [ijgd@ijgd.de](mailto:ijgd@ijgd.de), [www.ijgd.de/index.php?313](http://www.ijgd.de/index.php?313) More information on how to engage in a voluntary service in Germany: [www.pro-fsj.de](http://www.pro-fsj.de) Networks: - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V. (bagfa), [bagfa@bagfa.de](mailto:bagfa@bagfa.de), [www.bagfa.de](http://www.bagfa.de) - Bundesnetzwerk Buergerschaftliches Engagement - Bundesgeschaeftsstelle (BBE), [info@b-b-e.de](mailto:info@b-b-e.de), [www.b-b-e.de](http://www.b-b-e.de) - Verbund der Freiwilligen-Zentren im Deutschen Caritasverband, [freiwilligen-zentren@caritas.de](mailto:freiwilligen-zentren@caritas.de), [www.caritas.de/14765.html](http://www.caritas.de/14765.html)

## 5 Legal basis/legislation for voluntary activities in general



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## and for young people in particular

### 5.1 Legal status of volunteers

**Voluntary activities & 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. **Civic Service** Although the relationship between volunteers of the civic service & host organisations &/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 Act, Workplace Ordinance, Youth Work Protection Act & Maternity Protection Act. FSJ/FOEJ participants will be covered by social insurance & will receive pension, accident, health & rehabilitation as well as unemployment insurance. Detailed information about the legal basis of the civic service is provided by the following two acts: #Gesetz zur Foerderung eines freiwilligen sozialen Jahres# & #Gesetz zur Foerderung eines freiwilligen oekologischen Jahres# ([www.bmfsfj.de/Kategorien/gesetze,did=5644.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/Kategorien/gesetze,did=5644.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 & other benefits. [www.zivildienst.de](http://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.

### 5.3 Existence of social protection of volunteers

**Voluntary Activities** Most of the people engaged in voluntary activities have an accident insurance, which is paid by the organisation where the volunteer is active. Each volunteer can protect himself with a personal liability insurance, but not all of the voluntary activities are included in these privat insurances. In this case the organisation, where they work, is responsible for the insurance. **Voluntary Service** Volunteers who carry out a voluntary service have to care about their insurances themselves. Often, the organisation offering the places, also helps to conclude the necessary insurances. **Voluntary Services abroad** For those, carrying out a voluntary service abroad, additional insurances & measures for the social welfare are necessary, depending on the host country's conditions. **Information & counselling:** fid Services- und Beratungsstelle of the AGEH, [www.ageh.de/fid/grundl\\_recht.htm](http://www.ageh.de/fid/grundl_recht.htm) **Civic Service** During the civic service (Voluntary Year of Social Service # FSJ; Voluntary Year of Ecological Service # FOEJ) the participants are generally insured



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as independent members in the government insurance plan. For participants, who carry out the FSJ or the FOEJ abroad the organisations sending the participants abroad are obliged to take care of the necessary social insurances & to guarantee the necessary insurances protection in the foreign country. For participants, who carry out the Voluntary FSJ or the FOEJ abroad the child allowance is paid on. Civilian Service For the civilian service the #Gesetz ueber den Zivildienst der Kriegsdienstverweigerer (Zivildienstgesetz # ZDG)# is valid ([www.zivildienst.org/a/a1.htm](http://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 & 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 Years of Social Service (FSJ) & of Ecological Service (FOEJ) is open to anyone who has finished his/her obligatory period of full-time schooling, is under age of 27 & would like to volunteer 12 to 18 months of their time to apply to complete a voluntary year in Germany or abroad. FSJ & FOEJ are supported by legislation & by the federal government. More info: [www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/static/broschueren/fsj/index.htm](http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/static/broschueren/fsj/index.htm). In 2005 the federal programme #Generationsuebergreifende Freiwilligendienste# (Voluntary services embracing all age groups) was started:

[www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/freiwilligendienste-fuer-jedes-alter.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/freiwilligendienste-fuer-jedes-alter.html).

#Danke! Sport braucht dein Ehrenamt.# (Thanks!. Sport needs your voluntary activities.) is an initiative by the German Olympic Sports Federation (DOSB) and Commerzbank. More info:

[www.ehrenamt-im-sport.de](http://www.ehrenamt-im-sport.de) - regional Baden-Wuerttemberg: [www.ehrenamt-bw.de](http://www.ehrenamt-bw.de);

[www.buergerengagement.de](http://www.buergerengagement.de); [www.km-bw.de](http://www.km-bw.de) Bavaria:

[www.iska-nuernberg.de/landesnetzwerk/index.htm](http://www.iska-nuernberg.de/landesnetzwerk/index.htm) Berlin: [www.berlin.de/buergeraktiv/](http://www.berlin.de/buergeraktiv/)

Brandenburg: [www.ehrenamt.brandenburg.de](http://www.ehrenamt.brandenburg.de) Bremen: [www.freiwillig-in-bremen.de](http://www.freiwillig-in-bremen.de);

[www.buergerstiftung-bremen.de](http://www.buergerstiftung-bremen.de); [www.ehrenamt-bremen.de](http://www.ehrenamt-bremen.de) Rhineland-Palatinate:

[www.wir-tun-was.de](http://www.wir-tun-was.de) Hamburg: [www.engagement.hamburg.de](http://www.engagement.hamburg.de); [www.aktivoli.de](http://www.aktivoli.de) Hessen:

[www.gemeinsam-aktiv.de](http://www.gemeinsam-aktiv.de) Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania: [www.netzwerk-mv.net](http://www.netzwerk-mv.net);

[www.ehrenamt.inmv.de](http://www.ehrenamt.inmv.de) Lower Saxony: [www.freiwilligenserver.de](http://www.freiwilligenserver.de) North Rhine-Westphalia:

[www.engagiert-in-nrw.de](http://www.engagiert-in-nrw.de); [www.ehrenamt-caritas.de](http://www.ehrenamt-caritas.de) Saarland: [www.pro-ehrenamt.de](http://www.pro-ehrenamt.de) Saxony:

[www.wir-fuer-sachsen.de](http://www.wir-fuer-sachsen.de) Saxony-Anhalt: [www.freiwillig-in-sachsen-anhalt.de](http://www.freiwillig-in-sachsen-anhalt.de); [www.freistil-lsa.de](http://www.freistil-lsa.de)



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Schleswig-Holstein: [www.ehrenamt-sh.de](http://www.ehrenamt-sh.de) Thuringia:  
[www.thueringen.de/de/tmsfg/familie/ehrenamt/content.html](http://www.thueringen.de/de/tmsfg/familie/ehrenamt/content.html); [www.thueringer-ehrenamtsstiftung.de](http://www.thueringer-ehrenamtsstiftung.de)  
- local There is a big variety of local innovative offers to promote voluntary activities. More info: see  
#regional programmes# or the communities in question ([www.nameofthecity.de](http://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 & 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 - FOEJ), but the laws regulating these services determine the minimum standards for the protection of the volunteers & avoid disadvantages. Other voluntary services & 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

The price #Pro Ehrenamt# 2006, awarded by the German Olympic Sports Federation (DOSB) and Commerzbank, was awarded for the first time in co-operation with the national network Buergerschaftliches Engagement ([www.b-b-e.de](http://www.b-b-e.de)). In 2006 the evaluation of the impact of the changes to the Voluntary Social Year Act & the Voluntary Ecological Year Act was published. More info:  
[www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Pressestelle/Pdf-Anlagen/evaluierungsbericht-freiwilligendienste,property](http://www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Pressestelle/Pdf-Anlagen/evaluierungsbericht-freiwilligendienste,property)

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

~~Increasing~~ ~~Decreasing~~ Stable

Explanation

The second survey on voluntary activities in Germany (Freiwilliges Engagement in Deutschland 1999 - 2004. Published 2005) states a stable number of voluntary activities by young people.

### 8.3 Description of quality standards used in voluntary activities



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In Germany, there are no general & binding quality standards so far. Nevertheless, there has been a discussion about the introduction of quality standards for ten years. More info: [www.b-b-e.de](http://www.b-b-e.de). - Jugendleiter/in-Card (Juleica): document for volunteers in the field of youth work; records involvement & qualification of youth leaders; allows for reductions for community services, cultural offers, etc. More info: [www.juleica.net](http://www.juleica.net) - Quifd (Quality in voluntary services): joint project of Robert Bosch Foundation & Förderverein für Jugend und Sozialarbeit (Association for youth and social work); developed two manuals with standards for voluntary services for young people. More info: [www.quifd.de](http://www.quifd.de) - #Qualipass# for young people (age 12 to 25 years): campaign by the federal state Baden-Wuerttemberg; records activities of young people outside of the classroom, not only voluntary activities, but also jobs, computer classes, exchange experiences, etc. More info: [www.qualipass.info](http://www.qualipass.info) - Kompetenznachweis für Ehrenamt und Freiwilligenarbeit (Competence certificate for voluntary work): initiative by the federal state Hesse; proves persons# engagement in voluntary social activities & makes them visible by obtaining a certificate. More info: [www.kompetenznachweis.de](http://www.kompetenznachweis.de) - Nachweise International (Certificates International): certificates record participation, involvement and shown competences by young people who took part in an international exchange. More info: [www.open-the-world.net](http://www.open-the-world.net)

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

Trainings & evaluation measures are individual for each project. The academy for volunteering (Akademie fuer Ehrenamtlichkeit Deutschland c/o fjs e.V.) is a training institution especially for volunteering, civic involvement & voluntary activities. It offers advanced education programmes for voluntary & professional staffmembers & volunteers of the third sector all over Germany. The academy is a project of the Foerderverein fuer Jugend und Sozialarbeit e.V. (fjs) in Berlin. fjs is a charitable non-profit organisation & umbrella organisation with many projects in children-, youth & social work & also in multi- media application for educational & social work. More info: [www.ehrenamt.de](http://www.ehrenamt.de)

## 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 &, newly, in some federal states through the inclusion of voluntary activities in the curriculum in the schools. With the slogan #Engagement macht stark# (Being active makes you strong) the federal network Buergerschaftliches Engagement (bbe) has started a campaign to promote & 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](http://www.engagement-macht-stark.de) The initiative #fuer mich, fuer uns, fuer alle# (for me, for us, for all) is aimed at the promotion of voluntary activities in Germany & wants to thank all the unknown volunteers. Volunteers shall get support, interested people shall be won over for voluntary activities & the associated area of voluntary activities shall



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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](http://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 & the German Federal Youth Council every two years announce the Heinz|Westphal|Preis, remunerated with 15000 Euro (<http://heinz-westphal-preis.de>). The Projekt #EmS # Engagement macht Schule# in Saxonia-Anhalt e.g., supports & 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 & the Jacobs Foundation ([www.projektems.de](http://www.projektems.de)).

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

The committee on financial issues of the German Federal Parliament decided to add another million # to the existing budget for voluntary services in the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation in 2007. This money aims especially at the stronger involvement of disadvantaged young people in voluntary services. With this a decision of the Federal German Parliament was implemented which asks for the improvement of the general framework for voluntary services. The programme #Generationsuebergreifende Freiwilligendienste# (Voluntary services embracing all age groups, period 2005-2008) to translate the recommendations of the committee #Impulse fuer die Zivilgesellschaft # Perspektiven fuer Freiwilligendienste und Zivildienst in Deutschland" into action kept going in 2006. In 2006 several campaigns aiming at the recognition of voluntary activities took place. More info: [www.engagement-macht-stark.de](http://www.engagement-macht-stark.de)

### 9.3 Existing obstacles

Regarding 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](http://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](mailto:info@ijab.de), [www.ijab.de](http://www.ijab.de); [www.rausvonzuhause.de](http://www.rausvonzuhause.de) (information about voluntary activities abroad) - Eurodesk: [eurodeskde@eurodesk.org](mailto:eurodeskde@eurodesk.org), [www.eurodesk.de](http://www.eurodesk.de) (information about voluntary activities abroad) - Bundesnetzwerk Buergerschaftliches Engagement (BBE): [info@b-b-e.de](mailto:info@b-b-e.de), [www.b-b-e.de](http://www.b-b-e.de) (practical impulses for the promotion of volunteering & civic engagement; support of good practice; exchange of experience). - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V. (bagfa):



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bagfa@bagfa.de, [www.bagfa.de](http://www.bagfa.de) (projects & activities to promote the societal acceptance of voluntary work, especially to persuade young people & enterprises to engage voluntarily)  
Information about & offers of voluntary services abroad - Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst fuer den Frieden e.V., [www.friedensdienst.de](http://www.friedensdienst.de) - Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend e.V., [www.evangelische-jugend.de](http://www.evangelische-jugend.de) - Arbeitskreis Internationaler Gemeinschaftsdienste e.V., [www.aig-ev.de](http://www.aig-ev.de) - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Internationale Soziale Dienste e.V., Phone: + 49 221 20701-0 - Bund Ostdeutscher Gemeinschaftsdienste e.V., [www.vjf.de](http://www.vjf.de) - Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste e.V., [www.ijgd.de](http://www.ijgd.de) - Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr, [www.pro-fsj.de](http://www.pro-fsj.de)

### 10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

With the slogan #Engagement macht stark# (Being active makes you strong) the federal network Buergerschaftliches Engagement has started a campaign to promote & 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 & public places). More info: [www.engagement-macht-stark.de](http://www.engagement-macht-stark.de) The initiative #fuer mich, fuer uns, fuer alle# (for me, for us, for all) is aimed at the promotion of voluntary activities in Germany & wants to thank all the unknown volunteers. Volunteers shall get support, interested people shall be won over for voluntary activities & the associated area of voluntary activities shall be improved. The initiative awards citizens, who showed an extraordinary commitment in the field of voluntary work. More info: [www.buerger-engagement.de](http://www.buerger-engagement.de). The Civil Academy offers training for young people between 18 & 27 years who have a good idea for a project & want to be active on a voluntary basis. More info: [www.b-b-e.de/civil\\_academy.html](http://www.b-b-e.de/civil_academy.html). The yearly Innovation Award #Angefragt. Angestiftet. Mitgemacht.# is awarded to voluntary agencies for especially innovative public relations work, remunerated with 10000 #. 2006 shared by: FreiwilligenZentrum Kassel e.V., FreiwilligenAgentur Neumarkt e.V., EhrenamtsAgentur Weimar, FreiwilligenAgentur Kaiserslautern, Special price of Deutsche Bank (remuneration of 2500 #) to Freiwilligenagentur Stuttgart. More info: [www.bagfa.de](http://www.bagfa.de) The Social Day (Sozialer Tag) 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 & donate their wage for youth projects all over the world. The organisations #Aktion Tagwerk# & #Schueler Helfen Leben# organise the nationwide Social Day (2006: June 22nd). Next Social day scheduled for 19th June 2007. More info: [www.sozialertag.de](http://www.sozialertag.de).

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

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth aims at supporting young people from disadvantaged backgrounds by offering more places within the civic services Voluntary Social Year and Voluntary Ecological Year. For 2007 one million # will be added to the existing budget on voluntary services in the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation. Caritas Germany has launched an initiative for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds #Mach dich stark fuer starke Kinder# (Get strong for strong kids) which also aims at improving the access to voluntary activities for this target group. More info:



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[www.befaehigungsinitiative.de](http://www.befaehigungsinitiative.de) The German-French Youth Office offers a training "Jugend-Mediator" (Youth mediator) 2006/2007 which is also directed at young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who are interested in taking over the role of a facilitator and get other young people from disadvantaged backgrounds involved in international or German-French youth exchanges. More info: [www.dfjw.org/fr/formateurs/organiser/mediateur\\_Jeunesse\\_de.pdf](http://www.dfjw.org/fr/formateurs/organiser/mediateur_Jeunesse_de.pdf)

## 11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

### 11.1 Initiatives for recognition 'good practices'

- Heinz|Westphal|Preis Especially, to win young people for voluntary work the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth & the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring) every two years announce the Heinz|Westphal|Preis, remunerated with 15000 Euro (<http://heinz-westphal-preis.de>). Awarded next time in 2007. - JUGEND HILFT! (Youth helps) This is a competition at national level that is directed at children and young people who are engaged in social voluntary activities. More info: [www.jugendhilft.de](http://www.jugendhilft.de) - Award #STARK-Preis# for youth groups The yearly award #Ich mach'Z mich stark! Für uns in Schleswig-Holstein# was initiated by the Regional Government Schleswig-Holstein together with large associations & organisations. It aims at encouraging young people to get involved in voluntary activities. As of 2006 not only 5 youth groups will be awarded the price but also 2 single persons when they have been involved in an activity aimed at young people. More info: [http://landesregierung.schleswig-holstein.de/coremedia/generator/Aktueller\\_20Bestand/StK/Information/STK](http://landesregierung.schleswig-holstein.de/coremedia/generator/Aktueller_20Bestand/StK/Information/STK)

### 11.2 Measures of societal recognition

#Woche des Buergerschaftlichen Engagements# (Week of Civic Engagement): takes place in the framework of the campaign #Engagement macht stark# ([www.engagement-macht-stark.de](http://www.engagement-macht-stark.de)), includes different events and local actions to promote voluntary activities. Next week scheduled: 14 to 23 September 2007. #Tag des Ehrenamts# (Day of Voluntary Activity): also celebrated in Germany on 5th December. On that day the price #Pro Ehrenamt# is awarded to persons and institutions from media, policy and economy that have proven sustainable involvement in favour of voluntary activities in sports. More info: [www.engagement-macht-stark.de](http://www.engagement-macht-stark.de); [www.ehrenamt-im-sport.de](http://www.ehrenamt-im-sport.de) #Echt gut# (Really good # Voluntary Involvement in Baden-Wuerttemberg): yearly competition (since 2003) in Baden-Wuerttemberg, open to groups, associations & single persons, who are voluntarily active. The inhabitants of Baden-Wuerttemberg vote for their favourites. More info: [www.echt-gut-bw.de](http://www.echt-gut-bw.de) #Ehrenamts-card# (Card of Voluntary Activities): offered by the federal state Hesse to people who are very active voluntarily (at least 5 hours per week), can count with reductions for public & private offers, open to all age groups. More info: [www.gemeinsam-aktiv.de/ehrenamts\\_card.cfm](http://www.gemeinsam-aktiv.de/ehrenamts_card.cfm) Law on the enforcement of voluntary activities in the field of youth work: valid in some federal states e.g. Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate. To support full-time employees in the field of youth work by releasing them from work for some time to do voluntary work.



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## 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.: [info@ijab.de](mailto:info@ijab.de), [www.ijab.de](http://www.ijab.de), [www.rausvonzuhause.de](http://www.rausvonzuhause.de). Central specialist agency for international youth policy, youth work & youth information; promotes international youth work & cooperation. - Eurodesk: [eurodeskde@eurodesk.org](mailto:eurodeskde@eurodesk.org), [www.eurodesk.de](http://www.eurodesk.de). European network of information services providing access to European information for young people & those who work with them. - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V. [bagfa](mailto:bagfa@bagfa.de): [bagfa@bagfa.de](mailto:bagfa@bagfa.de), [www.bagfa.de](http://www.bagfa.de). Network organisation of local & regional voluntary agencies, aims at promotion of the societal acceptance of voluntary work - Bundesnetzwerk Buergerschaftliches Engagement: [info@b-b-e.de](mailto:info@b-b-e.de), [www.b-b-e.de](http://www.b-b-e.de). Network at national level linking civil-society organisations with corporations & foundations as well as governmental bodies. - Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr der bundeszentralen Traegerverbaende und Zentralstellen, [www.pro-fsj.de](http://www.pro-fsj.de). Joins the central federal statutory bodies & the central points of the Voluntary Year of Social Service; co-ordination & development of the Voluntary Year of Social Service. - Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Uebersee" e.V. (AK LHUE), [info@entwicklungsdienst.de](mailto:info@entwicklungsdienst.de), [www.entwicklungsdienst.de](http://www.entwicklungsdienst.de), [www.oneworld-jobs.org](http://www.oneworld-jobs.org). Advises interested people who would like to work abroad in a social area; organises professional postings of specialists as well as short or long term involvement of young people & adults in youth voluntary & social peace services. - Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst fuer den Frieden e.V. (AGDF), [agdf@friedensdienst.de](mailto:agdf@friedensdienst.de), [www.friedensdienst.de](http://www.friedensdienst.de). Promotes & implements measures serving the cause of peace coordinating long-term & short-term voluntary service organisations, gaining recognition & funding for voluntary services in international youth work.

### 12.2 Exchange of information, experience and good practices

- Bundesnetzwerk Buergerschaftliches Engagement # Bundesgeschaeftsstelle (BBE, [info@b-b-e.de](mailto:info@b-b-e.de), [www.b-b-e.de](http://www.b-b-e.de)) The Bundesnetzwerk Buergerschaftliches Engagement (BBE) is a network on the German national level linking civil-society organisations with corporations & foundations as well as federal & 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 & civic engagement. Focus of interest is the improvement of the legal, institutional & organisational framework of volunteering. It attends to encourage, support & promote examples of good practice in the Third Sector, state & economy, & works to sensitize & raise public & political awareness. Topics: Prevailing conditions, qualification/education, voluntary services, perspectives of a local civic society, migration/integration, corporate citizenship, civic engagement & welfare state, European civil society & civil dialogue, Civil Academy, net for citizens. - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen e.V. ([bagfa](mailto:bagfa@bagfa.de), [bagfa@bagfa.de](mailto:bagfa@bagfa.de), [www.bagfa.de](http://www.bagfa.de)) The [bagfa](http://www.bagfa.de) is a network organisation of local & regional voluntary agencies. It's aims are projects & activities to promote the societal acceptance of voluntary work, especially to win young people & enterprises for voluntary activities. Topics: general promotion of democracy;



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amelioration of the frame conditions of voluntary, honorary & civic engagement; public relations work to promote voluntary activities; sending of experts in societal & political bodies/committees dealing with voluntary work; support through qualifying offers & 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 info: Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Uebersee" e.V. (AK LHUE), [www.entwicklungsdienst.de](http://www.entwicklungsdienst.de) European Voluntary Service (EVS). More info: National Agency for the EU Action Programme YOUTH, [www.go4europe.de](http://www.go4europe.de) Voluntary Year of Social Service/Voluntary Year of Ecological Service in Germany or abroad. More info: [www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/fsj-foej.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/fsj-foej.html) Voluntary services on regional & local level through federal model programme "Generationsuebergreifende Freiwilligendienste" (Voluntary services embracing all age groups). More info: [www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/freiwilligendienste-fuer-jedes-alter.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/freiwilligendienste-fuer-jedes-alter.html)

### **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)

The 96th Day of the German Catholic Church (Deutscher Katholikentag) 2006 took place in Saarbruecken, May 24th #28th. Round about 1400 volunteers were needed. Volunteers from foreign countries with good knowledge of German were also welcome. The volunteers got lodging & food for free & a reimbursement of travel costs (in Germany). The minium age was 18 years or 16 years, if the person was part of a group with a leader over 18 & had a permission of the parents ([www.katholikentag.de](http://www.katholikentag.de)). Next event scheduled for May, 21st # 25th 2008 in Osnabrück. 50000 applicants put their names forward for the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ Volunteer Programme. The #Ready, willing and able# team comprised a total of 15000 volunteers, who were seeing to the needs of guests, teams and journalists during the summer of 2006. One in three volunteers # around 5300 in total # was working directly looking after fans and guests. After the tournament, efforts were recognised with a diploma

(<http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com/06/en/o/volunteers/index.html>). The 31st Day of the German Protestant Church (Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag) takes place in 2007, June 6th#10th in Cologne ([www.kirchentag.de](http://www.kirchentag.de)).

Details of programme/project

see above (12.4.1)

#### **12.4.2 Possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects**



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International volunteers had the possibility to apply for the volunteer programme in the framework of the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany.

### 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.)

**Voluntary Service** The number of young people engaged voluntarily in the field of international solidarity is statistically barely known. The Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Uebersee" e.V. (AK LHUE, [aklhue@entwicklungsdienst.de](mailto:aklhue@entwicklungsdienst.de), [www.entwicklungsdienst.de](http://www.entwicklungsdienst.de), [www.oneworld-jobs.org](http://www.oneworld-jobs.org)) is an amalgamation of sending organisations and counts the number of participants in international voluntary services. But there is a big question mark about the number of people who organise their voluntary services on their own. **Civic Service** The civic services (FSJ/FOEJ) can be spent abroad, if the host organisation's headquarters are located in Germany. **Civilian Service** Recognised conscientious objectors may 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.

Details of programme/project

See "Participants in international voluntary services" (Teilnehmer/innen an internationalen Freiwilligendiensten, entsandte Fachkräfte und Entwicklungshelfer/innen im Jahre 2004) edited by Arbeitskreis #Lernen und Helfen in Uebersee# e.V. (ed)., Bonn 2005:

[www.entwicklungsdienst.de/fileadmin/users/Publikationen\\_AKLHUE/Teilnehmer\\_an\\_IntFD\\_und\\_PZ\\_im\\_Jahr\\_2004.pdf](http://www.entwicklungsdienst.de/fileadmin/users/Publikationen_AKLHUE/Teilnehmer_an_IntFD_und_PZ_im_Jahr_2004.pdf)

#### 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 Uebersee" e.V. (AK LHUE), [aklhue@entwicklungsdienst.de](mailto:aklhue@entwicklungsdienst.de), [www.entwicklungsdienst.de](http://www.entwicklungsdienst.de), [www.oneworld-jobs.org](http://www.oneworld-jobs.org) The AK LHUE is the network of organisations involved in recruitment for development co-operation, voluntary community services & non-formal youth & education activities. It advises on the placement of young people & adults in youth community & peace-promoting activities. Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst fuer den Frieden e.V. (AGDF), [agdf@friedensdienst.de](mailto:agdf@friedensdienst.de), [www.friedensdienst.de](http://www.friedensdienst.de) The AGDF is an umbrella organisation of ecumenically oriented peace & voluntary service organisations & institutions. Its activities include the planning, promotion & implementation of measures serving the cause of peace by coordinating long-term & short-term voluntary service organisations whose aim is to promote peace. It strives to gain recognition & 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 - FOEJ) can be spent abroad, if the host organisation's headquarters are located in Germany.



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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

- Second Survey on Voluntary Activities (Freiwilliges Engagement in Deutschland 1999 # 2004), edited by Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth & its infratest, published December 2005. Download short version:

[www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Arbeitsgruppen/Pdf-Anlagen/freiwilligen-survey-kurzfassung,property=po](http://www.bmfsfj.de/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Arbeitsgruppen/Pdf-Anlagen/freiwilligen-survey-kurzfassung,property=po)

- Statistics on participants in international voluntary services and development cooperation, by Arbeitskreis #Lernen und Helfen in Uebersee# e.V. (ed.), published December 2005. Download:

[www.entwicklungsdienst.de/fileadmin/users/Publikationen\\_AKLHUE/Teilnehmer\\_an\\_IntFD\\_und\\_PZ\\_im\\_Ja](http://www.entwicklungsdienst.de/fileadmin/users/Publikationen_AKLHUE/Teilnehmer_an_IntFD_und_PZ_im_Ja)

- Study on informal learning processes at a young age in settings of voluntary engagement, running from 1st January 2003 till 31st October 2006, extended until 30 April 2007, carried out by University of Dortmund and German Youth Institute Munich, [www.dji.de/cgi-bin/projekte/output.php?projekt=287](http://www.dji.de/cgi-bin/projekte/output.php?projekt=287) - Study on voluntary activities in youth work in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Download:

[www.jugend.inmv.de/ljr/ljr\\_content/Ehrenamt/news/EA-Studie\\_2005.pdf](http://www.jugend.inmv.de/ljr/ljr_content/Ehrenamt/news/EA-Studie_2005.pdf) - #Germany active# #

Report by the Initiative for Citizens# Engagement #für mich, für uns, für alle#, published 2006.

Download:

[www.buerger-engagement.de/3\\_expedition/initiativenbericht\\_2004/Initiativenbericht\\_04.pdf](http://www.buerger-engagement.de/3_expedition/initiativenbericht_2004/Initiativenbericht_04.pdf) - #Civic Engagement in Saxony 2004 # Results and Trends#, published December 2005: Download:

[www.sachsen.de/sms-wfs/Brosch\\_BuergerschaftlichesEngagementinSachsen1999.2004\\_040406.pdf](http://www.sachsen.de/sms-wfs/Brosch_BuergerschaftlichesEngagementinSachsen1999.2004_040406.pdf)

- #Youth. Values. Future. Values, future perspectives and social engagement in adolescence#.

Research project by Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg, published 2005. Download:

[www.landesstiftung-bw.de/publikationen/files/sr-14\\_studie\\_jugendwertezukunft2.pdf](http://www.landesstiftung-bw.de/publikationen/files/sr-14_studie_jugendwertezukunft2.pdf) - #Civic Engagement and Management#, carried out by universities of Dortmund and Münster, published 2006. Download: [www.be-management.org/download/bem-fuehrungskraefte.pdf](http://www.be-management.org/download/bem-fuehrungskraefte.pdf)



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