

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”

GERMANY



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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1 Statistics

1.1 Types of voluntary activities existing in the country for young people

Voluntary activities		Voluntary service		Civic service	
√ YES	NO	√ YES	NO	√ YES	√ NO

1.2 Number of Young people who engage in Voluntary activities per year.

According to the 15th Shell youth study 2006 36% of the young people between the age of 12 and 25 engage regularly in voluntary activities (ca. 4 million persons) and 42% from time to time (ca. 5 million persons).

Source: 15. Shell Jugendstudie: „Jugend 2006 – Eine pragmatische Generation unter Druck“, www.shell-jugendstudie.de.

1.3 Number of Young people who engage in Voluntary service in your country per year.

Total Number ca. 3000 persons

Total Female N/I persons

Total Male N/I persons

Source: BMFSFJ (ed.). Perspektiven für Freiwilligendienste und Zivildienst in Deutschland. Bericht der Kommission Impulse für die Zivilgesellschaft. Berlin, 2004, www.bmfsfj.de.

1.4 Number of Young people who engage in Voluntary service abroad (excluding European Voluntary service per year.

Total Number 5646 persons in the year 2006

Total Female N/I persons

Total Male N/I persons

Source: Arbeitskreis „Lernen und Helfen in Übersee“ e.V. (ed.) „Statistische Übersicht zu Personalvermittlungen 2006“, Bonn 2007, www.entwicklungsdienst.de.

1.5 Number of Young people who engage in national voluntary Civic service (where it exists) per year.

Total Number ca. 35 000 persons in 2006

Total Female N/I persons

Total Male N/I persons

Comment: 18 100 persons carried out a Voluntary Social Year or a Voluntary Ecological Year, 4600 persons did a civic instead of a civilian service (according to sec 14c Law on the Civilian Service) and around 12 300 carried out a voluntary service that was no co-financed by the federation.

Source: BMFSFJ (ed.): Für mich und für andere. Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr/Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr, Berlin, 2007, www.bmfsfj.de.

1.5.1 Number of Young people who carry out their service period abroad per year.

Total Number 1608 persons in the year 2006

Total Female N/I persons

Total Male N/I persons

Comment: Young people carrying out their Voluntary Social Year/Voluntary Ecological Year (including those young men doing a civic service instead of a civilian service) or doing the "Other service abroad" (der Andere Dienst im Ausland).

Source: Arbeitskreis „Lernen und Helfen in Übersee“ e.V. (ed.) „Statistische Übersicht zu Personalvermittlungen 2006“, Bonn 2007, www.entwicklungsdienst.de.

1.5.2 National voluntary civic service open to young people from outside the country

Yes, the Voluntary Social Year or the Voluntary Ecological Year are open to young foreigners. These young volunteers need a residence permit, an employment permit is not required. Should they come from a non-EU country they also need a visa.

Not all organisations/associations offer places for foreigners as it means more effort for them.

1.5.3 Number of Young people from outside the country participating in your national voluntary Civic service per year.

Total Number N/I persons

Total Female N/I persons

Total Male N/I persons

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-	Yes	N/I

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

3 Finance

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

It is not possible to specify the total amount of funds available for voluntary activities as their number and variety is very broad.

Through the Child and Youth Plan the Federation ensures the framework for an effective infrastructure of youth organisations, organisations in the field of child and youth services and welfare organisations on the federal level. This well-funded infrastructure mainly fosters voluntary activities of young people. Besides the Federation funds temporary model programmes and specific activities in the field of volunteering.

Moreover, specific voluntary activities of young people in the field of technical relief, environmental protection, agriculture, alimentation and consumer protection are funded by the Federal Ministries for Home Affairs, for Environment and for Agriculture.

On the regional level the federal states have similar child and youth plans to fund youth work. The most important public sources of funding lay here in the hands of the 680 local youth welfare offices.

The civic services Voluntary Social Year (FSJ) and Voluntary Ecological Year (FÖJ) are funded by the host organisations/association, the German federal states, third-parties and federal funds. In 2007 the budget for civic services was raised by one million euros. All in all, the federal government supported both services with about 19 225 000 Euro. Furthermore, the persons who carried out a civic instead of a civilian service were funded with about 20 million euros. The civilian service ist based on a mixed financing with money coming from host organisations/association, social insurance carriers and the federal government.

Non-public voluntary services are funded by the volunteers and their parents themselves, private organisations/associations or third parties (i.e. churches, lottery income, private foundations).

In 2008 the new civic service “weltwärts” focussing on development countries will be implemented.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation will fund this service with about 70 million euros (ca. 10 000 places) per year.

Sources:

BMFSFJ (ed.): Report of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Commission on Voluntary Activities, Berlin 2006, p. 21, ff.

Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, www.bmz.de

3.2 Main public and private 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

Ministries of Federal States. For contact persons see: <http://dip.bundestag.de/btd/14/089/1408900.pdf>, pp. 373–374.

Private sources

Foundations (examples):

Aktion Mensch, www.action-mensch.de

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

Körper-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

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Stiftung Mitarbeit, www.mitarbeit.de

More foundations/funds can be found at www.stiftungen.org

Others:

McKinsey, pro-bono projects: www.mckinsey.de/profil/firm/unternehmerischeverantwortung.htm

startsocial – Hilfe für Helfer, www.startsocial.de

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4 Main Actors

4.1 Main actors of Voluntary activities of Young people

Ministries or other governmental actors:

Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend

(Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth)

Abteilung 2, Unterabteilung 21, Referat 211

Rochusstr. 8–10, 53123 Bonn, Germany

poststelle@bmfsfj.de, www.bmfsfj.de

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

(Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)

Weltwärts-Sekretariat

Postfach 12 06 19, 53048 Bonn, Germany

sekretariat@weltwaerts.de, www.bmz.de

Non-governmental actors :

Organisations (selection):

Arbeiterwohlfahrt (Workers' Welfare), www.awo.org

Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend (Federation of German Catholic Youth), www.bdkj.de

Deutsche Sportjugend (German Sports Youth), www.dsj.de

Deutscher Bundesjugendring (German Federal Youth Council), www.dbjr.de

Deutscher Caritasverband (German Caritas Association), www.caritats.de

Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband (German Non-Denominational Welfare Association),
www.paritaet.org

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross Society), www.drk.de

Evangelische Freiwilligendienste für junge Menschen, www.ev-freiwilligendienste.de

Internationaler Bund (International Federation): www.internationaler-bund.de

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Networks:

Arbeitskreis "Helfen und Lernen in Übersee" (Working Committee „Helping and learning overseas“),

www.entwicklungsdienst.de

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege (Association of Voluntary Social Welfare Services), www.bagfw.de

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen (Association of Volunteering Agencies), bagfa@bagfa.de, www.bagfa.de

Bundesarbeitskreis FSJ (Federal Association of FSJ), www.pro-fsj.de

Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (Federal Network for Civic Engagement), info@b-b-e.de, www.freiwillig.de

Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung (German Union of Federal Associations for Cultural Youth Education), www.bkj.de

Verbund der Freiwilligen-Zentren im Deutschen Caritasverband (Network of Volunteering Centres of German Caritas Association), www.caritas.de/14765.html

Information centres on specific civic services:

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 (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 (German Sports Youth), dsj@dsj.de, www.dsj.de

Voluntary Social Year in the field of the preservation of historic monuments: Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste (International Youth Community Services), ijgd@ijgd.de, www.ijgd.de

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

5.1 Specific legal status of volunteers

Voluntary activities & Voluntary Service

There is no specific legal status for volunteers in Germany. Volunteers have to act along the general legal conditions which partly regulate voluntary work in the aim to protect volunteers from specific risks, to compensate [financial] disadvantages resulting from volunteering, to promote volunteering through qualification or counselling, to create individual incentives for volunteers and to make volunteering possible.

Civic Service

Legal basis:

Gesetz zur Förderung eines Freiwilligen Sozialen Jahres (Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service)

Gesetz zur Förderung eines Freiwilligen Ökologischen Jahres (Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Ecological Service)

Guidelines for the Development Volunteer Service

These laws/guidelines regulate the possibilities of deployment, pedagogical support and observation, include provisions on the host organisations working in the field, or on the authorisation of new ones, and regulate age-limits as well as the allowance for and social security of the volunteers.

According to sec 14 of the Law on the Civilian Service (Zivildienstgesetz) young men can carry out a civic service (Voluntary Social Year/Voluntary Ecological Year) instead of a civilian service.

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5.2 Taxation of volunteers and volunteer organisations

A new law from 2007 supports volunteering by tax reductions. Since 1st January 2007 persons who volunteer and who receive a small allowance for their commitment do not have to pay taxes up to an amount of 500 Euros per year. Furthermore, the tax-exempt amount for trainers was raised to 2100 Euros.

Tax exemptions for non-profit 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 and a casualty insurance which is paid by the organisation/association they are volunteering for. In cases in which such insurances do not exist the insurance coverage is covered by special insurances provided by the federal states.

Voluntary Service

Volunteers who carry out a voluntary service have to care about their insurances themselves. Often the organisations offering the places help to conclude the necessary insurances.

Voluntary Services abroad

For those people carrying out a voluntary service abroad additional insurances and measures for social security are necessary depending on the host country's conditions. Questions regarding this

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topic are answered by the Service- und Beratungsstelle of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe (www.ageh.de)

Civic Service

In particular with regard to social security, young people who sign up for a civic service are more or less on par with other young people who are doing vocational training. The host organisations provide pocket money, accommodation, meals, working clothes or can pay a lump sum to cover these expenses. Volunteers have complete social security coverage (statutory pension, accident, health care, long-term nursing care and unemployment insurance). Their parents receive family benefits and the volunteers are given travel cost reductions on the German Railways and on public transport. The Voluntary Social Year and the Voluntary Ecological Year are both recognised by the Central Office for the Allocation of Places in Higher Education as waiting time for such a place. For participants who carry out their service abroad the sending organisations are obliged to take care of the necessary social insurance.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed Young people participating in Voluntary activities

According to sec 119 subsec 2 Social Code Volume II unemployed people can participate in voluntary activities up to 15 hours per week without having disadvantages in respect to their earnings-related benefits.

6 Programmes

6.1 What programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering (national, regional, local)?

National level (selection):

Public:

Voluntary Year of Social Service (FSJ)/Voluntary Year of Ecological Service (FÖJ): FSJ/FÖJ offer everybody who has finished his/her obligatory period of full-time schooling, is under the age of 27 and would like to volunteer 6 to 18 months of their time in Germany or abroad. FSJ and FÖJ are supported by legislation and by the federal government. More information:

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/Politikbereiche/Freiwilliges-Engagement/fsj-foej,did=12150.html>

Model programme on cross-generational voluntary services (generationsübergreifende

Freiwilligendienste) 2005-2008: Currently the federal government realises a model programme on cross-generational voluntary services encouraging people of all age groups to become volunteers.

The aim is to strengthen the cooperation between the generations and to support a new culture of

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voluntariness. More information:

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/Kategorien/aktuelles,did=57936.html>

Development Voluntary Service (weltwärts): In 2008 the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development together with its partners is going to start a new kind of voluntary service called "weltwärts" (toward the world). Young people between 18 and 28 are invited to work between 6 and 24 months as volunteers in projects in development countries. During this time they are financially supported (The Development Ministry will cover the costs of accommodation, travel, training and a small allowance). All in all the government will provide funding of some 70 million euros per year for this voluntary service. More information: www.weltwaerts.de

Non-public:

Civic Academy is a Qualification Programme for young people between the age of 18 and 27. Experts in the fields of civic engagement and economics share their know-how and methods for the successful realisation of ideas and projects. More information: <http://www.civil-academy.de/index.html>

Action Week on Voluntary Activities: Since four years the Federal Network for Civic Engagement has been organising an action week on voluntary activities aiming at promoting volunteering in society.

More information: www.engagement-macht-stark.de

Advanced Training Programme for Young Volunteers (Freiwilligenkolleg): The Robert Bosch Foundation invites young volunteers who showed either excellent special skills or extraordinary commitment to this training programme. The training focuses on practical skills that prepare participants for responsibilities in both their future professional lives and further civic involvement.

More information: www.freiwilligenkolleg.de

There is a large number of programmes and plans on the regional and local level. For this reason only the internet addresses of the regional platforms promoting voluntary activities can be listed here.

Regional level

Baden-Württemberg: www.ehrenamt-bw.de , www.buergerengagement.de

Bavaria: www.wir-fuer-uns.net , www.wir-fuer-uns.bayern.de

Berlin: www.berlin.de/buergeraktiv , www.aktiv-in-berlin.info

Brandenburg: www.ehrenamt.brandenburg.de

Bremen: www.buergerengagement.bremen.de , www.buergerstiftung-bremen.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

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Rhineland-Palatine: www.wir-tun-was.de

Saarland: www.pro-ehrenamt.de

Saxony: www.wir-fuer-sachsen.de

Saxony-Anhalt: www.engagiert-in-sachsen-anhalt.de , www.freistil-lsa.de

Schleswig-Holstein: www.ehrenamt-sh.de

Thuringia: www.thueringer-ehrenamtsstiftung.de

Local level

Most of all, voluntary 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 websites of the federal states (see information on regional programmes) or of the communities in question (www.nameofthecity.de).

An internet platform with information on voluntary activities in Germany can be found at

www.buergergesellschaft.de

7 Relationship between different services

7.1 Relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service in the country

Those young men who refuse to do military service for conscientious reasons have to do a civilian service. Like the military service the civilian service is regulated by the state and is considered as a service under public law with detailed legal regulations. While the military service encompasses nine months the civilian service lasts twelve months.

It is possible to do a civic service (Voluntary Social Year or Voluntary Ecological Year) instead of a civilian service. In 2006/2007 4600 young men used this opportunity.

Moreover there is the possibility to do the "Other Service abroad" (Der Andere Dienst im Ausland). In praxis this means that young people having carried out such a service are released from doing a civilian service – given that the service abroad lasted at least 14 months and that they did it for an organisation recognized by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

7.2 Plans to create voluntary civic service if not existing

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 September 2007 the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth launched the programme "Civic services qualify" (Freiwilligendienste machen kompetent) which aims at facilitating the access to these services for disadvantaged young people, especially young people with a lower educational and/or a migration background. In the framework of this programme places of the Voluntary Social Year/Voluntary Ecological Year are specifically tailored to the abilities and needs of this target group.

Moreover the preparations for a new voluntary service in development countries ("weltwärts") were concluded in 2007. In 2008 the first young people will be able to carry out this service supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Quality standards are being developed for this voluntary service. More information: www.weltwaerts.de.

For 2008 the federal government plans to adopt a new law on civic services. This new law will improve the conditions for civic services by i.e. flexibilising their time structure and allowing volunteers to carry out a combined service in Germany and abroad.

8.2 Which other means, measures and instruments does your country apply in order to develop the voluntary activities of young people?

The agency QUIFD (Quality in Voluntary Services), which issues organisations offering voluntary services and following certain quality standards with a certificate, extended its service in 2007. Now it is also able to certificate those organisations that function as responsible bodies (Trägerorganisationen) in the field of voluntary services. Before certificates were only issued to organisations sending or receiving volunteers. More information: www.quifd.de.

In November 2007 the German Federal Youth Council launched a project on further developing the national youth leader card "Juleica" which certificates that its owners attended a special qualification training. Among other issues the project aims at developing nationwide minimum qualification standards for the "Juleica" training courses. More information: www.dbjr.de.

In the field of international youth work the "Nachweise International" (International Certificates) issued to young people who took part in an international youth activity could be further established. Launched in 2006 this system of certification offers the possibility to issue certificates on different levels (participation, engagement, competence). More information: www.open-the-world.net

9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 How is Young people's voluntary engagement facilitated?

Young people are encouraged to become a volunteer through various information channels as well as by projects or actions programmes. Furthermore, the recognition of voluntary activities plays an important role. In some federal states voluntary activities are included in the school curricula.

To inform young people about the numerous possibilities of volunteering the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the bodies for statutory and voluntary youth services and youth welfare and the federal states developed a considerable information and advice network. Among other offers the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth provides a brochure on voluntary services as an online and a print version (print run: 50 000 copies per year).

Download: <http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/Kategorien/Service/themen-lotse,did=3598.html>

Other examples are the internetportal on volunteering of the federal state of Baden-Württemberg (www.ehrenamt-bw.de) or the website of the Working Committee „Helping and Learning Overseas“ (Arbeitskreis „Helfen und Lernen in Übersee“) which gives a good overview of the organisational landscape of international voluntary services and development cooperation (www.entwicklungsdienst.de)

Moreover a project group of the Federal Network of Civic Engagement (Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement) worked out a conception for an interactive online database centralising all information on the different voluntary services under one central address in the internet. Download of the conception: http://www.b-b-e.de/uploads/media/nl01_freiwilligendienste.pdf.

Other Examples (in short):

Action week on voluntary engagement, www.engagement-macht-stark.de

Celebration of the International Volunteer Day on 5th December

Initiative “für mich, für uns, für alle” (for me, for us, for all), www.buerger-engagement.de/1_initiative/index.php

Heinz-Westphal-Preis, an award especially honouring the voluntary commitment of young people, <http://heinz-westphal-preis.de>

Project “Engagement makes school” – in Saxony-Anhalt this project supports and advises schools and teachers on how to encourage pupils to get active, www.projektems.de

see also 10.2

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9.2 What recent (this year) measures have been taken to remove obstacles to Young people's volunteering? (legal, administrative measures, etc...)

The federal government prepared a new law on civic services which aims at improving the conditions for civic services by i.e. flexibilising their time structure and allowing volunteers to carry out a combined service in Germany and abroad.

9.3 What obstacles still exist?

Selection:

Although the budget for the civic services was raised there are still 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 programmes.

Young people who would like to carry out a voluntary service outside the civic service (no financial support) often cannot afford the costs.

Potential organisations/associations that would like to offer places for volunteers (civic service) cannot afford the monthly costs for the young persons.

Legal conditions have become more restrictive (reduction of the maximum duration for family benefits, introduction of tuition fees in some federal states) which has obstructive effects on the voluntary activities.

The status of young volunteers in the cross-generational voluntary services is not clear in regard to social security obligations.

Lack of financial resources for projects and initiatives (i.e. lack of basic funding).

Young people between the age of 14 and 18 with lower educational background have less opportunities in application processes.

Disadvantaged young people who would like to become active, cannot afford the cost for travelling and for participation or membership fees.

Long lead times: Young people cannot apply on short-notice for civic services or voluntary services abroad although it could be helpful in order to bridge waiting time (i.e. between graduation and vocational training or university).

The regulations for international voluntary services are seen as too tight and not practicable. More flexibility is needed.

The status of volunteers going abroad is often unclear. Sometimes they are seen as employees which causes a lot of problems.

Employers still see voluntary commitment as a disadvantage. They fear special leaves.

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10 Promotion of voluntary activities for young people

10.1 Information channels for Voluntary activities of Young people (organisations, links, contact persons, etc...)

Selection

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth: provides information about the civic service programmes FSJ/FÖJ and the model project on cross-generational voluntary services, www.bmfsfj.de, publication on civic services - Download:

<http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/Kategorien/Service/themen-lotse.did=3598.html>

Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation: provides information about the development voluntary service "weltwärts", www.bmz.de

Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (Federal Network for Civic Engagement): gives practical impulses for the promotion of volunteering and civic engagement, supports good practice and exchange of experience, www.freiwillig.de

Eurodesk: German part of the European information platform with 42 local information centres, provides in particular information on voluntary activities abroad, www.eurodesk.de

German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring) and its member organisations (youth organisations, regional youth councils), www.dbjr.de

IJAB - International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (formerly: International Youth Exchange and Visitors' Service of the Federal Republic of Germany), provides information on voluntary activities abroad for young people and experts, www.ijab.de

Links

www.rausvonzuhause.de – information about voluntary activities and services abroad, database on international mobility programmes

www.fsj-web.org – detailed information about the Voluntary Social Year

www.pro-fsj.de - detailed information about the Voluntary Social Year including organisations offerings places

www.fsjkultur.de - detailed information about the Voluntary Social Year in the field of culture

www.fsj-adia.de – information for young people interested in carrying out a voluntary service abroad

www.foej.de – detailed information about the Voluntary Ecological Year

www.foej.net – internet platform for young people who are carrying out a Voluntary Ecological Year and those having done one

www.weltwaerts.de – detailed information about the development voluntary service "weltwärts"

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Organisations offering places for the civic services

Arbeitswohlfahrt, www.awo.org

Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend, www.bdkj.de

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz, www.bund.net

Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung, www.bkj.de

Caritas, www.caritas.de

Deutsche Sportjugend, www.dsj.de

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, www.fsj.drk.de

Evangelische Freiwilligendienste, www.ev-freiwilligendienste.de

Internationaler Bund, www.internationaler-bund.de

Naturfreundejugend, www.naturfreundejugend.de

Naturschutzbund Deutschland, www.nabu.de

Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband, www.paritaet.org

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Information about and offers of voluntary services abroad

Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden, www.friedensdienst.de

Arbeitskreis „Helfen und Lernen in Übersee“, www.entwicklungsdienst.de

Arbeitskreis Internationaler Gemeinschaftsdienste, www.pro-international.de

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Internationale Soziale Dienste, www.traegerkonferenz.de

Bund Ostdeutscher Gemeinschaftsdienste, www.vjf.de

Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste, www.ijgd.de

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Media

Social Times – news about civic engagement, reports daily about social, ecological, international and cultural topics, www.socialtimes.de

10.2 Promotion activities for Voluntary activities (events, support for promotion actions, contact persons)

Examples:

Social Day (Sozialer Tag) 2007: On 19th June 2007 200 000 pupils in Germany went to work for one day in an enterprise instead of going to school. Their wages were donated to education projects for children in Africa (2.1 million euros). The action day was supported by several minister presidents of the federal states and the Federal President Horst Köhler. The aim of the action was to encourage

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young people to get engaged in voluntary activities and to learn about social responsibility. The next social day is scheduled for 8th July 2008. More information: www.sozialertag.de.

Campaign "Role models educate" (Vorbilder bilden): In June 2007 the Bertelsmann Foundation launched the campaign to encourage young people to become active as volunteers and to become a role model for others. At the same time politicians are asked to provide the conditions young people need to volunteer. More information: www.vorbilder-bilden.de.

Radio spots promoting voluntary activities among young people: The German Federal Youth Councils published radio spots of 51 prominent Germans (musicians, comedians, footballers etc.) calling young people to get engaged. More information and download: <http://www.dbjr.de/index.php?m=12&id=308>.

Young, engaged, qualified - Film on voluntary engagement of young people: The Regional Youth Council of Hessen supported by the Hessian government produced a short film to draw the attention on the voluntary activities of young people. The film focuses in particular on the qualifications and competences young people acquire through their commitment. Download: <http://www.hessischer-jugendring.de/infos/allginfo/ehrenamt/ehrenamt.htm>

10.3 Initiatives to promote Voluntary activities among Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

Examples:

Competition "Involvement and integration of migrants through civic engagement": The foundation "Citizens for citizens" (Bürger für Bürger) awards a price for projects and ideas on jointly voluntary activities of Germans and migrants. The price money amounts to 7000 Euros. The prizes are handed over during a high-visibility event in Berlin in the presence of the German official integration representative. More information: www.buerger-fuer-buerger.de

Programme "Civic services qualify" (Freiwilligendienste machen kompetent): In September 2007 the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth launched this programme focussing in particular on disadvantaged young people. The programme facilitates the access to voluntary engagement in the Voluntary Social Year and the Voluntary Ecological Year. The aim is to encourage disadvantaged young people to become active in society and to foster their training and job opportunities by doing such a service.

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11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

11.1 How (by which means) are voluntary activities of young people recognised?

Certificates (cards, documentation in school reports)

Awards

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Bonus systems

Societal Recognition (Day of the Volunteer, Action Weeks/Days)

11.2 Do certificates on the voluntary activities of young people exist?

Jugendleiter/in-Card (Juleica): The “Jugendleiter/in-Card (Juleica)” is a certificate for young volunteers who are active in an voluntary organisation. They attended a special qualification training and are at least 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). The Juleica is the most common certificate for young volunteers in Germany. Ca. 3000 cards are issued each month.

Some federal states have an own form of certifying qualifications. In Baden-Württemberg the “Qualipass” documents practical experiences and competences of young people between the age of 12 and 25 acquired by voluntary commitment but also by traineeships, stays abroad etc. (www.qualipass.info). Other federal states have similar forms of documenting voluntary commitment of young people (i.e. Hamburger Nachweis, Berliner FreiwilligenPass, EhrenamtsCard in Hessen).

Young people who carried out a Voluntary Social Year or a Voluntary Ecological Year have a right to receive a certificate informing about the form and the duration of their voluntary service. The certificate can also include a performance rating and the vocational qualifications the young people acquired during their service.

Since 2006 voluntary activities of young people in international contextes are recognised by “International Certificates” (Nachweise International). These certificates document the participation, the commitment and the shown competences of young people who took part in international activities (also those realised in Germany). More information: www.open-the-world.net.

11.3 By whom are the voluntary activities of young people recognised

In most cases the documents certifying voluntary activities of young people are issued by youth organisations or organisations/associations offering places for voluntary services which are officially recognised as voluntary or statutory bodies in the youth sector.

In regard to the International Certificates the Participation and the Commitment Certificate can be issued by all bodies (mainly voluntary organisations) active in non-formal international youth work. But the authorisation to issue the Internationaly Competency Certificate is given only to specialists and

experienced team leaders who are already qualified and have a special training. More information:

www.open-the-world.net

11.4 Does society as such recognise voluntary activities of young people? If so how (by which means)?

Competitions and awards are high-visibility means to recognise and honour volunteers.

Examples:

Citizens Award “für mich, für uns, für alle” (for me, for us, for all) honours citizens who showed an extraordinary commitment in the field of voluntary work. The category “JUNIOR” awards young people until the age of 21, www.buerger-engagement.de/1_initiative/index.php.

Every two years the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the German Federal Youth Council award the Heinz-Westphal-Preis to young people doing extraordinary voluntary work. The price money amounts to 15 000 euros, <http://heinz-westphal-preis.de>.

Groups, associations and single persons who are voluntarily active in Baden-Württemberg can participate in the competition “Echt gut!”(Really Good) – Voluntary Engagement in Baden-Württemberg”. The competition is divided in seven categories. A jury makes a preselection and all inhabitants of Baden-Württemberg can vote for their favourites. More information: www.echt-gut-bw.de.

Since four years the Federal Working Committee of Volunteers’ Agencies (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen) awards an innovation prize to innovative project ideas of volunteers’ agencies aiming a solving social problems by voluntary commitment. The price money amounts to 13 000 euros. More information: www.bagfa.de

Databases on competitions and awards regarding voluntary activities can be found at the webpages of Aktive Bürgerschaft (Active Citizenship, www.aktive-buergerschaft.de) and the Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (Federal Network of Civic Engagement, www.freiwillig.de)

Since 2004 the Federal Network of Civic Engagement organises each year the Week of Civic Engagement (Woche des bürgerschaftlichen Engagements). Under the slogan „Engagement makes you strong” many young people participate in numerous projects on local and regional level. The week works as an image campaign for volunteers and helps to draw the attention of public and media on voluntary activities. More information: www.engagement-macht-stark.de.

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

12.1 Networks who promote Voluntary activities of Young people at all levels with short description of the networks, their members and activities; description of how they enhance the development, facilitation, promotion and recognition of Young people's Voluntary activities

Selection

National level

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Freiwilligenagenturen (Federal Association of Volunteering Agencies) is the network organisation of local and regional volunteering agencies and aims at promoting societal acceptance of voluntary work

More information: www.bagfa.de

Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr (Federal Working Committee Voluntary Ecological Year) unites 46 of 52 organisations recognised to offer places for the Voluntary Ecological Year. The committee aims at representing common interests, organising information and experience exchanges as well as at strengthening the importance of the Voluntary Ecological Year in society.

More information: www.foej.de

Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr der bundeszentralen Trägerverbände und Zentralstellen (Federal Working Committee Voluntary Social Year) unites the central federal voluntary and statutory bodies as well as the organisations/associations offering places for the Voluntary Social Year. The committee coordinates and further develops the Voluntary Social Year services.

More information: www.pro-fsj.de

Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (Federal Network of Civic Engagement) unites 190 civil society organisations and aims at the sustainable promotion and development of civic and voluntary engagement.

More information: www.freiwillig.de

In the Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung (German Union of Federal Associations for Cultural Youth Education) 48 specialised organisations and federal associations active in cultural education for young people in Germany have joined forces to work towards a common goal: the promotion and advancement of out-of-school cultural education for children and young people. It is one of the government's partners for the cross-generational voluntary service.

More information: www.bkj.de, www.kek-projekt.de

Deutscher Bundesjugendring (German Federal Youth Council) is a working committee of 45 national youth organisations and the regional youth councils. It promotes voluntary activities of young people at all levels and represents the interests of young people active in youth organisations towards government, parliament and public.

More information: www.dbjr.de

Regional level

Similar to the work of the German Federal Youth Council on national level the 16 Regional Youth Councils promote voluntary activities of young people at the regional and local level.

More information: www.dbjr.de/index.php?m=1&id=22&type=LJR&

European level

Eurodesk is a European network of information services providing access to European information for young people and those who work with them. The German Eurodesk network unites 42 local information centres.

More information: www.eurodesk.de

International level

Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden (Action Committee Service for Peace): The AGDF is an umbrella organisation of 35 organisations and institutions, all of which provide peace services focussing on various work areas and programmes in Germany and abroad. Their peace services are open to everyone.

More information: www.friedensdienst.de (English version available)

Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Übersee" (Working Committee „Helping and learning overseas“) is an nonprofit association with 27 member organisations being active in the field of development cooperation, international voluntary services and education in development countries. The Working Committee provides information for those who would like to work abroad in a social area, organises professional postings of experts as well as short or long term involvement of young people and adults in voluntary and social peace services.

More information: www.entwicklungsdienst.de

IJAB – Fachstelle für internationale Jugendarbeit (International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany) is a central specialist agency for international youth policy, international youth work and youth information. Its 29 member organisations represent the broad variety of German child and youth

services. Its task is to promote international youth work and the cooperation in the field of youth policy to increase mutual understanding between young people from different countries and cultural backgrounds, to consolidate their relationships and to overcome prejudices.

More information: www.ijab.de, www.rausvonzuhause.de

12.2 What are the possibilities for exchange for young volunteers: at all levels (transnational, national, regional, between communities). Give information and contact addresses

In general events and meetings (i.e. general assemblies) on national level offer a lot of face-to-face opportunities for young volunteers to exchange experiences. Apart from this online services like platforms or contact fairs support the exchange among volunteers on the local and regional level.

In regard to voluntary/civic services:

For volunteers carrying out a Voluntary Social Year/Voluntary Ecological Year accompanying regular seminars are integral part of the programme. These seminars provide a space where the young volunteers meet to share and to reflect their experiences as well as to broaden their knowledge on issues related to their service.

Moreover volunteers communicate via internet platforms/forums. Here are some examples of websites:

- www.foej.net - is a platform where young volunteers who are carrying out a Voluntary Ecological Year can exchange information and experience.
- www.fsj-adia.de - Young volunteers having done their service abroad can upload an experience report in order to inform others interested in doing such a service. An online forum provides space for direct exchange and a "job fair" helps to find a place in an organisation/association receiving volunteers abroad.
- www.missionarin-auf-zeit.de – provides an online forum for young people having done, doing or planning to do a missionary temporary volunteer service.

12.3 Collective volunteering projects in your country

12.3.1 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, where possible):

If known, please provide details of programme/project, dates, description, contact, capacity/number of volunteers:

- 6th-10th June 2007: 31st Day of the German Protestant Church (Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag) in Cologne. The next one is scheduled for 20th May 2009 in Bremen. More information: www.kirchentag.de
- 19th June 2007: Social Day (Sozialer Tag) 2007, 200.000 pupils in Germany went to work for one day in an enterprise instead of going to school. Their wages they donated to education projects for children in Africa (2.1 million euros). The action day was supported by several minister presidents of the federal states and the Federal President Horst Köhler. The aim of the action was to encourage young people to get engaged in voluntary activities and to learn about social responsibility. The next social day is scheduled for 8th July 2008. More information: www.sozialertag.de.
- 21st-25th May 2008: 97th Day of the German Catholic Church (Deutscher Katholikentag) in Osnabrück. More information: www.katholikentag.de
- 19th – 28th September 2008: 4th Week of Civic Engagment. Under the slogan “engagement makes you strong” (Engagement macht stark) volunteers all over Germany present their projects, initiatives, programmes etc. to draw public attention on voluntary activities.

12.3.2 Are there any possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects?

Yes, in the Day of the German Protestant Church and the Day of the German Catholic Church.

12.4 International solidarity volunteer service

12.4.1 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.).

Several kinds of voluntary services offer the opportunity to volunteer in the field of international solidarity. Among them are the “Other Service abroad” (der Andere Dienst im Ausland), the Diaconal Year abroad, the Voluntary Social Year abroad and missionary temporary volunteers (MissionarIn auf Zeit).

Organisations/associations (selection) offering places for this kind of volunteering are
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- Aktion Sühnezeichen (Action Reconciliation Service for Peace), www.asf-ev.de
- EIRENE – Internationaler Christlicher Friedensdienst (International Christian Peace Service), www.eirene.org
- HELP International, www.helpinternational.de
- Peace Brigades International, www.pbi-deutschland.de
- For more information see www.entwicklungsdienst.de.

Besides the Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation together with organisations/associations active in the field of international solidarity is going to launch “weltwärts”, the new civic service in development countries in 2008. It offers young people between the age of 18 and 28 to carry out a voluntary service (6 to 24 months) in a development country. The service is supported by public funds. More information: www.weltwaerts.de.

12.4.2 Please list some major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries

Major Platform

Arbeitskreis "Lernen und Helfen in Übersee" (Working Committee „Helping and learning overseas“) is an nonprofit association with 27 member organisations being active in the field of development cooperation, international voluntary services and education in development countries. The Working Committee provides information for those who would like to work abroad in the social area, organises professional postings of experts as well as short or long term involvement of young people and adults in voluntary and social peace services.

More information: www.entwicklungsdienst.de

AFS Interkulturelle Begegnungen (Intercultural Encounters), www.afs.de

Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden (Action Committee Service for Peace),

www.friedensdienst.de

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe (Working Committee for Development Assistance)

Christliche Fachkräfte International (Christian Experts International), www.cfi-stuttgart.de

Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste der Deutschen Kolpingfamilie (International Youth Community Services of the German Kolping Family), www.kolping.de/jgd

EIRENE – Internationaler christlicher Friedensdienst (International Christian Peace Service),

www.eirene.org

Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (Protestant Development Service), www.eed.de

Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst (Forum Civil Peace Service), www.forumZFD.de

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Grenzenlos (Borderless), www.grenzenlos.org

ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit (Global Exchange of Volunteers), www.icja.de

Internationaler Bund (International Federation), www.internationaler-bund.de

Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste (International Youth Community Services), www.ijgd.de

Service Civil International, www.sci-d.de

Weltfriedensdienst (World Peace Service) www.wfd.de

12.4.3 Please describe in how far the government/state administration is involved in organising, supporting and implementing international solidarity service in non-EU countries

The government strongly supports international solidarity services in non-EU countries. The Federal Law on the Promotion of the Voluntary Social Year (Gesetz zur Förderung eines Freiwilligen Sozialen Jahres) and the Federal Law on the Promotion of the Voluntary Ecological Year (Gesetz zur Förderung eines Freiwilligen Ökologischen Jahres) as well as the Law on Civilian Service foresee the possibility to carry out the service as an international solidarity service in non-EU countries (under certain conditions).

Furthermore, the Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation together with the organisations/associations active in the field of international solidarity is going to launch “weltwärts”, the new civic service in development countries, www.weltwaerts.de.

13 Studies & Surveys

13.1 What recent surveys or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?

Published in 2007:

Arbeitskreis „Lernen und Helfen in Übersee“ (ed.): „Fachkräfte in der personellen Entwicklungsarbeit/Freiwillige in internationalen Freiwilligendiensten - Statistische Übersicht zu Personalvermittlungen 2006“, Bonn 2007.

Statistical overview on development experts and volunteers in international voluntary services sent abroad through the member organisations of the Working Committee “Helping and Learning Overseas”

Download: www.entwicklungsdienst.de/fileadmin/users/Publikationen_AKLUHUE/2007/Statistik-20061.pdf

Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend/Europäische Union – Europäischer Sozialfonds/Forschungsverbund Deutsches Jugendinstitut - Universität Dortmund (ed.):

Freiwilligendienste als außerschulische Bildungsinstitution für benachteiligte junge Menschen - Machbarkeitsstudie zu den individuellen und institutionellen Bedingungen des ESF-Programms „Kompetenzerwerb benachteiligter Jugendlicher im Rahmen eines FSJ/FÖJ“, Berlin 2007.

Feasibility study on how disadvantaged young people can acquire competences through a Voluntary Social Year/Voluntary Ecological Year carried out by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the University of Dortmund and the German Youth Institute. The results were published in April 2007.

Download: www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/RedaktionBMFSFJ/Arbeitsgruppen/Pdf-Anlagen/machbarkeitsstudie.property=pdf,bereich=,sprache=de,rwb=true.pdf

Deutsches Jugendinstitut/Forschungsverbund Deutsches Jugendinstitut - Universität Dortmund:
Informelle Lernprozesse im Jugendalter in Settings des freiwilligen Engagements.

The focus of the study is on the acquirement of competences through voluntary activities during the youth age (empirical period 01.01.2003 – 30.04.2007). There are no publications on the results yet.

More information: www.dji.de/cgi-bin/projekte/output.php?alleszeigen=1&projekt=287

Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk (ed.): Vita gesellschaftlichen Engagements. Eine Studie zum Zusammenhang zwischen früher Beteiligung und dem Engagement bis ins Erwachsenenalter, Berlin 2007.

Study of the German Children's Aid Association on the relation between early participation and engagement in adulthood.

Download: http://www.kinderpolitik.de/downloads/aktuell/dkhw_studie_engagement.pdf