

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN GERMANY



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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

Child and youth policy in Germany is characterised by a diversity of levels and responsibilities. In line with Germany's federal structure, child and youth policy is not only a matter for the Federal Government but also for the Länder, municipal authorities and voluntary child and youth service organisations in the framework of their partnership with public agencies.

The process of developing a new holistic youth policy has led to the introduction of a new national youth strategy in 2015. It aims at creating and promoting fair conditions for youth in society.

The implementation of the new youth policy respectively the new youth strategy covers:

- the creation of a youth strategy coordination centre as an information and liaison office for the dissemination of the youth strategy and networking,
- the development of a so-called 'Youth Check',
- the setting-up of a working group 'Youth designs future' to support the further development of the Federal Government's demographic strategy,
- the support of innovative youth policy projects through the so-called Innovation Fund,
- the creation of a new digital platform for participation,
- the transfer of European ideas, stimuli and contents from the EU Youth Strategy into national policies and practice
- an Initiative for Mobility to support international exchanges and mobility,
- the draft of the 15th National Child and Youth report about the living environments of young people.

The Federal Government understands child and youth policy as a general responsibility of society. In this context, the Federal Government defines its child and youth policy as:

1. a governmental policy anchored in the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. In addition to the core issues of the Ministry's youth policy, it is also responsible for, inter alia, central programmes of the Federal Government's youth policy and important youth policy liaisons with other policy areas.
2. an overall responsibility of all Federal Ministries whose policies have a direct or indirect impact on the different situations in a young person's life. These include education (school,

university, vocational training), the labour market, social issues, health, justice, interior affairs, regional and urban policies.

3. an enabling child and youth policy. Through co-operation with other stakeholders in society, child and youth policy improves the social opportunities of children and young people in different areas, supports them in coping with everyday life and encourages their involvement.

Policies suitable for children and young people need to focus on the difference in circumstances, multi-faceted environments and the diversity of being young. In this context, youth policy needs to take into account the fact that the young people of today are confronted with greater diversity and different social challenges than in the past. Child and youth policy has to create spaces for individual problem-solving strategies and ensure equal opportunities.

Fair development perspectives and enhanced equal opportunities are the central goals of a child and youth policy that is oriented towards justice. The prerequisites are the maximum possible involvement of young people in society, politics and business, and the prevention of their social marginalisation.

The task of child and youth policy is to give young people scope to fully develop their personality and talents in society. The offers of child and youth policy add to parental education as well as school and vocational training. Child and youth policy must make a contribution towards facilitating the integration of young people into an open pluralist society in an increasingly complex world.

Child and youth policy is at the top of the Federal Government's agenda. The objective of the Federal Government's youth policy is to create fair and equal opportunities and options for the young generation. In order to enforce this claim, the Federal Government wants to improve the overall political, societal and social conditions for young people and give adequate importance to child and youth policy as a means to open up the necessary development opportunities for the young generation.

As for national youth policy and youth work, the Federal Child and Youth Scheme (*Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes*) is also the central funding mechanism for youth policy and youth work at European and international level. Almost 85 % of the public funding made available for child and youth services are provided by local authorities (towns, municipalities and countries).

2. Statistics on young people

Mention the number of all young people from the ages of 15 and 29 who live in the country: 13,737,276 (2014)

Number and Percentage of young people in global population: 17 % (2014)

Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population:

Male: 7,028,572 = 8.7 % (2014)

Female: 6,708,704 = 8.3 % (2014)

(Source: Eurostat, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population-demography-migration-projections/population-data/database>, November 9, 2015)

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities

Ministry in charge of youth:

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, www.bmfsfj.de

Minister: Manuela Schwesig

Duration of mandate: until September 2017

Youth Department in the Ministry

Main tasks of the Youth department:

The Youth department is, amongst others, in charge of federal laws concerning youth, for example, the Social Code, Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child and Youth Services and the Protection of Young People Act. It represents the interests of children and youth in all areas of policy, mainly in the areas of education, health and labour market as a cross-sectional task maintaining close contact to other ministries, the federal states (*Länder*) and municipalities as well as to public youth services. It develops a new independent youth policy in order to set up a strong alliance for youth. The department supports and promotes supraregional and federal non-statutory organisations in the field of child and youth services in their wide variety of value orientations, contents, methods and forms of work. It helps to develop European youth programmes and cross-border cooperation in the field of child and youth work. It asks independent experts to inform about the situation of young people in Germany by drafting child and youth reports on a regular basis.

The youth department also supports the protection of children and young people from sexual abuse and violence through the internet and fights child pornography in the internet. It provides funding for projects that promote tolerance and democracy to prevent extremist tendencies among children and youth. It is also in charge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the drafting of the reports about its implementation on national level. It also speaks up for the inclusion of young people with disabilities. The youth department supports disadvantaged young people and young migrants by improving their surrounding conditions.

Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department: 80

Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry: Bettina Bundszus-Cecere,
info@bmfsfjservice.bund.de

Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy: Uwe Finke-Timpe, info@bmfsfjservice.bund.de

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

Other Ministries

The following ministries deal, sometimes only in smaller areas, with children and youth support or are responsible for questions that could be relevant for children and young people:

Federal Foreign Office, www.auswaertiges-amt.de

Federal Ministry of the Interior, www.bmi.bund.de

Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, www.bmju.de

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, www.bmwi.de

Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, www.bmas.de

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, www.bmel.de

Federal Ministry of Defence, www.bmvg.de

Federal Ministry of Health, www.bmg.bund.de

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety,
www.bmub.bund.de

Federal Ministry of Education and Research, www.bmbf.bund.de

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

Advisory bodies:

The Advisory Council for Family Issues

(www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/Ministerium/beiraete,did=9388.html) advises the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth independently and voluntarily concerning all issues of family research and family policy.

The Federal Advisory Committee on Youth Problems

(www.bundesjugendkuratorium.de) is a group of up to 15 experts that advise the Federal government in basic questions of youth services (as laid down in Social Code Volume Eight Child and Youth Services) and in cross-sectional tasks of child and youth policy. The Committee also gives recommendations with regard to current priorities in the child and youth policy of the Federal government. Furthermore, it proposes topics where it thinks that action is needed.

The Advisory Council for the Federal Voluntary Service

(www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/freiwilliges-engagement,did=205204.html) advises the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth regarding all issues of the Federal Voluntary Service.

The **Federal Advisory Council on the Implementation of the EU Youth Strategy** in Germany gives advice and accompanies the implementation process of the EU Youth Strategy at federal level.

Subordinate agencies and structures of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth:

- The **Federal Review Board for Media Harmful to Minors** (www.bundespruefstelle.de) is Federal) is an official administrative authority of the German government. Its task is to protect children and adolescents in Germany from any media which might contain harmful or dangerous contents. This work is authorized by the "Protection of Young People Act".
- The **Federal Office for Family and Civic Affairs** (www.bafza.de/aufgaben/kriegsdienstverweigerung-zivildienst.html) is in charge of the correct implementation of the application process of conscientious objection and the alternative civilian service. It is responsible for recruiting, taking care of and educating conscientious objectors. Even though the compulsory military service was suspended in July 2011, the right of conscientious objection still exists.
- The **Independent Commissioner for Issues of Sexual Child Abuse** (<https://beauftragter-missbrauch.de/>) supports and monitors the implementation of the recommendations of the

round table "Sexual Child Abuse", especially the introduction and further development of protective measures to prevent sexual abuse of children in institutions.

Parliament commissions in charge of youth issues:

Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth at the German Federal Parliament (www.bundestag.de/familie)

Name of President / Chair: Paul Lehrieder (chair changes regularly),
familienausschuss@bundestag.de

Role and Competence: Deals with bills/applications, reports, resolutions/EU bills in overall control or co-advisory capacity; controls governmental activities of Federal Ministry in charge of youth as parliamentary authority. Focus in terms of youth: strengthening children's rights/participation / youth/youth media protection; fighting trade in child prostitution/sex tourism.

Commission for the Perception of Children's Needs (www.bundestag.de/kiko)

Name of President / Chair: Susann R uthrich (chair changes regularly),
kinderkommission@bundestag.de

Role and Competence: Sub-committee of Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Lobby of children in parliament (for more children's rights, child protection in advertising, fighting against child pornography). Examines federal law regulations for effects on children, suggests amendments.

Commission of Experts for the Child and Youth Report of the Federal Government (www.bildungserver.de/Kinder-und-Jugendberichte-3447.html)

It consists of representatives from universities, non-statutory organisations in the field of child and youth services and cities and towns. The composition of the commission changes with each report. The report focuses on one specific topic in each legislative period (Next one due in 2017).

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

At state level, all 16 states maintain separate youth ministries, which cooperate and coordinate their work through the Conference of Ministers for Youth and Family Affairs (JMFK).

The **Conference of Youth and Family Ministers** (www.ifmk.de) is an expert body consisting of the ministers and senators in charge of child, youth and family affairs of the federal states (*Länder*). The Conference works towards an equal development of institutions and programmes and supports local youth offices and youth offices of the federal states. In the framework of the Conference of Youth and Family Ministers legal questions of the youth service, specialist youth service policy questions as well as youth political questions are decided upon and corresponding resolutions passed.

Chair of the Conference: Changes regularly. In 2015 it rests with Saarland, namely the Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Women and Family. The Chairperson represents the Conference at European level (European Union and Council of Europe). In its work, the Conference of the Youth and Family Ministers is supported by the **Working Party of the Highest Youth and Family Authorities of the Federal States**.

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

At local level, the **municipal youth office** (Jugendamt) is the central institution of child/youth services. A difference is made between the Administrative District Youth Office (administrative district level), Town Youth Office (towns which are administrative districts in their own right), "Regionalised Youth Office" (in a municipality belonging to an administrative district) as well as District Youth Offices (in the districts of the city states). The Youth Offices have been given the authority of carrying out/guaranteeing the tasks and services laid down in the Social Code Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child and Youth Services. It rules that the work of the youth office will be carried out by the Committee for Youth Services and the administration of the youth office. The administration of the youth office carries out the resolutions/laws with the specialist competence of its staff. The Committee for Youth Services has the steering function of child and youth services at local level, is concerned with all matters of youth services especially with the discussion of current problems of young people and their families as well as ideas/suggestions for the further development of youth services, youth assistance planning and the promotion of voluntary youth services. Its structure is based on the intention of establishing far-reaching participation of knowledgeable citizens. Representation of child/youth political interests in youth services committees has a central role. Youth services committees are responsible for the youth services planning and are the turntable for the establishment/promotion/modification of offers in child and youth services. Addresses of all youth offices at local level: www.jugendhilfeportal.de/db1/ (in German).

3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

- **Child and Youth Welfare Association** (www.agj.de). Founded in 1949. It was given its present name in 2006. It is an amalgamation of central federal youth organisations and regional youth councils, leading voluntary social welfare organisations, central specialist organisations, main youth authorities of the federal states (ministries), youth offices of the federal states. AGJ works at various levels: it lobbies the legislative and the executive branches of government with statements, recommendations and reports based on joint evaluated findings of the members. By making recommendations and proposals on child and youth services and by organising events of various kinds, the AGJ continuously acts towards improving conditions in the practical area of child and youth services. It holds specialist conferences and congresses both for experts and the public involved in this kind of work. Since 1995 the AGJ has been the legal entity and executive director of the National Coalition (*National Coalition für die Umsetzung der Rechte der Kinder in Deutschland*) founded to implement children's rights in Germany.
- **Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People** (www.bag-jugendschutz.de). Founded in 1951 under the name Federal Association for Action to Protect Children. It is an amalgamation of leading welfare organisations, youth associations and individuals which defend the interests of children and young people within the framework of legislation to actively protect children and young people. At national level, the BAJ represents the rights of children and young people in politics and society independent of party politics or religious denomination.

More information: www.kinder-jugendhilfe.info/en_kjhq/cqj-bin/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=4686

3.3 Non-public actors / structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

3.3.1 Youth Councils

The **National Youth Council** is the **German Federal Youth Council** (www.dbjr.de). Its current membership includes 27 youth organisations, 16 regional youth councils and 6 affiliated organisations. The 6 affiliated organisations have an advisory vote. Role and objectives:

- to publicly represent youth interests and common aims of the member organisations, particularly to parliament and government;
- to ensure an ongoing information flow between member organisations and to enable them to achieve common positions on youth policy;
- to cooperate with youth organisations outside Germany, at European and international level.

There are 16 **Regional Youth Councils** in Germany. Those regional youth councils are associations of youth organisations actively working on regional level. They are made up of independent youth associations with a total membership of about 5 million people whose activities are accessible to about 70 % of all children and young people.

<http://landesjugendring.de>

- Bavarian Youth Council, www.bjr.de
- Youth Council of Bremen/Regional Working Party of Youth Organisations in Bremen, www.bremerjugendring.de
- Youth Council of Hesse, www.hessischer-jugendring.de
- Children and Youth Council of Saxony, www.kjrs-online.de
- Children and Youth Council of Saxony-Anhalt, www.kjr-lsa.de
- Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, www.ljrsh.de
- Regional Youth Council of Baden-Württemberg, www.ljrbw.de
- Berlin Regional Youth Council, www.ljrberlin.de
- Regional Youth Council Brandenburg, www.ljr-brandenburg.de
- Hamburg Regional Youth Council, www.ljr-hh.de
- Regional Youth Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, <http://lirmv.de>
- Regional Youth Council of Lower Saxony, www.ljr.de
- Regional Youth Council of North Rhine-Westphalia, www.ljr-nrw.de
- Regional Youth Council of Rhineland-Palatinate, www.ljr-rlp.de
- Regional Youth Council of the Saarland, www.landesjugendring-saar.de
- Regional Youth Council of Thuringia, <http://ljrt.de>

Local Youth Councils are self-organised amalgamations of local youth associations, organisations and initiatives. Their goal is to represent children's and young people's interests before public, policy and administration, to help shape and back the general framework of youth (associative) work and, on behalf of the children and young people, to take a stand with regard to socio-political questions and questions relevant to youth.

Youth councils represent the youth associations' demands before the committees and institutions responsible for youth issues on local level, especially in the so called Committees for Youth Services of the urban districts and the counties.

Example: North Rhine-Westphalia (biggest federal state according to population) with approx. 120 local youth councils (<http://ljr-nrw.de/jugendarbeit-nrw/stadt-kreisjugendringe.html>)

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Other big youth NGO's that are NOT members of the National Youth Council are:

- Association of Youth Groups within the German Organisation for the Hearing Impaired, www.bundesjugend.de
- European Youth Parliament in Germany, www.eyp.de
- Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People, www.bag-jugendschutz.de
- Federal Forum for Child and Youth Travel, www.bundesforum.de
- German Federation of Associations for Cultural Child and Youth Education, www.bkj.de
- German Marine Youth, www.dmj.de
- German Scouting Association, www.dpvonline.de
- German Sports Youth in the German Olympic Sports Federation, www.dsj.de
- German Young Foresters – Federal Association of the Society for the Protection of German Forests, www.waldjugend.de
- German Youth Hostel Association, www.jugendherberge.de
- Youth of the SoVD (Social Association of Germany), www.sovdjugend.de
- International Federation of Voluntary Associations of Youth Social Work and Vocational Training, www.internationaler-bund.de
- Juvente, www.juvente.de
- Maltese Youth, www.malteserjugend.de
- Party of Young Socialists in the Social Democratic Party of Germany, www.jusos.de
- Young Christian Democrats of Germany, www.junge-union.de
- Young Democrats – Young Left, www.idjl.org
- Young Greens, <https://gruene-jugend.de>
- Young Liberals, www.julis.de

3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?

If yes, give names and contacts and explain its structure. Please also explain your role within this network (as EKCYP correspondent). If no such network exists, please explain why and if there have been any attempts to set up such a network.

Expert groups, permanent networks: (Example: Researchers or research groups who are regularly involved or consulted in youth related topics on a national or regional level)

Since there are already several networks on youth topics in Germany, no new national network for knowledge on youth has been established. Examples of expert groups and networks:

- Archive of the German Youth Movement, www.archiv-jugendbewegung.de
- Forum Science & Practice, organised by the Federation of Protestant Youth in Germany (aej) and the Federation of Protestant Students in Germany (ESG) to promote dialogue between science and practice, www.evangelische-jugend.de/forum#c6288
- German Youth Institute, www.dji.de
- Institute for Applied Family, Childhood and Youth Research at the University of Potsdam (IFK), www.ifk-vehlefanf.de
- Institute for Child and Youth Services, www.ikj-mainz.de
- Institute for Regional Innovation and Social Research – IRIS, www.iris-egris.de
- Institute for Social Work, www.isa-muenster.de
- Institute for Social Work and Social Education, www.iss-ffm.de
- Institute for Vocational Training, Labour Market Policy and Social Policy Ltd., www.inbas.com
- Office for Children and Youth Services Statistics, www.akjstat.uni-dortmund.de
- Research Group Youth and Europe, www.cap-lmu.de/fgje/
- Research Institute in Labour Market Policies and Employment Strategies for Disadvantaged Young People, <http://www.iaj-oldenburg.de>
- Researcher-Practitioner-Dialogue on International Youth Work, www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de
- Social Research Institute Mainz, www.ism-mz.de
- Social-scientific Study Group of Intercultural Perspectives, www.ssiip-web.de
- Working Group on Expert Conferences on Youth Services of the Scientific Association for Urban Studies, www.fachtagungen-jugendhilfe.de

The EKCYP correspondent draws information from these networks or contacts them in order to update certain information sheets, as e. g. the one on 'Better Knowledge on Youth'.

4. Legislation

Please explain the legal foundations of national youth policy / actions concerning youth.

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

- Article 5 Freedom of expression (2): These rights shall find their limits in ... provisions for the protection of young persons...
- Article 11 Freedom of movement (2): This right may be restricted only by or pursuant to a law, and only in cases ... in which such restriction is necessary to ... protect young persons from serious neglect ...
- Article 12a (Compulsory military or alternative service): Men who have attained the age of eighteen may be required to serve in the Armed Forces, in the Federal Border Police, or in a civil defense organisation. Any person who, on grounds of conscience, refuses to render military service involving the use of arms may be required to perform alternative service ...
- Article 13 (Inviolability of the home) (7): Interferences and restrictions shall otherwise only be permissible to ... protect young persons at risk.

National legislation on youth

General laws as the German Civil Code, German Penal Code, and Federal Social Assistance Act are of particular significance to children, young people and families.

Laws dealing with the specific problems of children and young people are:

- Act on Equality for People with Disabilities
- Act on the Restriction of Child Pornography on the Internet (Access Blocking)
- Act on the Amendment of Provisions of the Telecommunications Act
- Act on the Advance Payment of Child Subsistence
- Act on the Fixed-Term Employment of Scientists
- Act on the Introduction of an Alcohol Ban for New Driving License Holders
- Acts on the Promotion of a Voluntary Community Service Year (FSJ) or a Voluntary Ecological Service Year (FÖJ)
- Adoption Placement Act
- Alcopop Taxation Act

- Alternative Civilian Service Act
- Career Development Assistance Act
- Child Daycare Promotion Act
- Conscientious Objection Act
- Criminal Law Protection for Stalking Victims (Stalking Act)
- Development Assistance Workers Act
- Distance Learning Protection Act
- EQJ Programme Directive
- Federal Child Benefit Act
- Federal Childcare Allowance Act
- Federal Child Protection Act
- Federal Education and Training Assistance Act
- Federal Gender Equality Act
- Federal Parenting Benefit and Parental Leave Act
- Federal Protection of Non-Smokers Act
- General Non-Discrimination Act
- Juvenile Courts Act
 - o Bill Amending the Juvenile Courts Act
 - o Bill Introducing Retroactive Orders of Preventive Detention for Sentences Under Juvenile Criminal Law
- Law of the Parent and Child
 - o Draft Bill Facilitating Family Court Orders in Case of a Danger to a Child's Well-being
- Legal Protection against Violent Video Games
- Maternity Protection Act
- Narcotics Act
- Partnership for Life Act
- Pregnancy and Family Assistance Amendment Act
- Pregnancy Conflicts Act
 - o Act on Assistance for Women in Special Pregnancy Termination Cases
 - o Legal Provisions on Pregnancy Terminations Pursuant to Section 218 of the Criminal Code
- Promotion of Vocational Education Act
- Prostitution Act
- Protection against Violence Act

- Protection of Young Persons Act
 - o *Länder* Convention on Youth Protection in the Media
- Protection of Young Persons at Work Act
 - o Protection of Children at Work Ordinance
- Social Code
 - o Social Code, Book II
 - o Social Code, Book III
 - o Fourth Act on the Amendment of the Social Code Book III - Improvement of the Qualification and Employment Opportunities of Young People
 - o Social Code, Book IX – Rehabilitation and Participation of Persons with Disabilities
 - o Social Code, Book V – Statutory Health Insurance
 - o Social Code, Book VIII – Child and Youth Services
 - Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Services
 - Day Care Expansion Act
 - o Social Code, Book XII – Social Welfare
 - o Social Welfare Courts Act
- Victim Compensation Act
- Vocational Education Act
- Weapons Act

Regional and local legislation on youth

The SGB VIII (Volume Eight - Social Code - Child and Youth Services) gives the overall responsibility for child and youth services to the administrative districts (counties) and towns which are administrative districts in their own right. They are obliged to set up a youth office. The law also offers a system of services in partnership cooperation between statutory and voluntary local organisations of child and youth services. More information: www.kinder-jugendhilfe.info/en_kjhg/cgi-bin/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=4753

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

National programmes on youth

Child and youth policy in Germany is characterised by a diversity of levels and responsibilities. In line with Germany's federal structure, child and youth policy is not only a matter for the Federal Government but also for the *Länder*, municipal authorities

and voluntary child and youth service organisations. The Federal Government understands child and youth policy as a general responsibility of society and defines it as:

1. a **governmental policy** anchored in the **Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth** (www.bmfsfj.de). The Ministry is responsible for central programmes of the Federal Government's youth policy and important youth policy interfaces with other policy areas.
2. a **cross-sectional responsibility** across all Federal Ministries whose policies have a direct or indirect impact on the different situations in a young person's life. These include education, labour market, social, health, justice, interior, regional and urban policies.
3. an enabling child and youth policy.

Based on the overall objectives of child and youth policy, the Federal Government has defined **three central action points** for its current agenda:

- Fair chances for young people (starting in early childhood: family, social environment)
- Enlarged demand with less space of time (less of time to gain knowledge and to develop personally due to i.e. globalization, use of new media, reduced school years)
- Looking with confidence to the future (transition from school to work, demographic change)

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has developed a national Youth Strategy. This strategy is closely linked to the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. It addresses ALL young people. The main contents, projects and key political objectives of the national Youth Strategy are:

- Independent youth policy as a policy approach that puts young people between 12 and 27 years at the heart of cross-sectoral and joint actions.
- A Youth Check is being prepared to review and check if activities at national level comply with the needs of young people and to raise awareness of the needs of young people.
- The Working Group „Youth shapes the future” brings the voice of young people into the Federal Government's demographic strategy. It puts rural areas at the core of its activities and cooperates with 4 model rural districts (Friesland, Kyffhäuserkreis,

Lichtenfels, Vorpommern-Rügen). Youth participation is a compulsory element in this process (see also 1.5 Consultation of Young People).

- The Coordinating body ‚Action for a youth-oriented society‘ is a central partner in the implementation of the national Youth Strategy. Its main task is to disseminate the ideas of the independent youth policy nationally. The body cooperates with all stakeholders of the Youth Strategy and takes care of networking.
- An Innovation fund was created to support innovative youth policy. Between 2014 and 2016 it provides funds for 42 projects covering a variety of topics e.g. political education, cultural education, youth (associations‘) work, international youth work or youth social work.
- Participation of young people is a core working principle of the Federal Ministry for Youth and responsible bodies because young people are experts of their own when it comes to issues concerning them.
- A digital platform for participation will be created to further youth participation.
- European ideas, stimuli and contents from the EU Youth Strategy will be transferred into national policies and practice. The strategy is run by the Federation (Bund) and the Regions (Länder) covering 3 main areas: Support of participation and strengthening of democracy, social inclusion and successful transition from school to work, recognition and visualisation of non-formal and informal learning in youth work.
- An Initiative for Mobility as part of the national Youth Strategy is planned to support international exchanges and mobility.
- The 15th National Child and Youth report will analyse the living environments of young people including the perspective of young people as a central element and innovative approach.

Source: www.jugendgerecht.de/jugendstrategie-2015-2018/

National initiatives and programmes running under the Ministry for Youth (BMFSFJ)

- **Initiative “To Strengthen Youth”** (www.jugend-staerken.de). Comprises several programmes directed at disadvantaged youth and youth with migration background, e.g.:
 - **To Strengthen Youth at Local Level** (in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety). More info: www.jugend-staerken.de/unsere-programme/jugend-staerken-im-quartier.html
 - **Youth Migration Services**. More info: www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de

- **To Strengthen Youth. 1000 Chances.** More info: www.1000-chancen.de
- **Federal programme „Living Democracy! – Active against right-wing extremism, violence and hostility”,** (2015 – 2019). Supports civil society against anti-democratic tendencies and behaviour. www.demokratie-leben.de
- **Federal sports competitions at schools “Youth Trains for the Olympics” and “Federal Youth Games”** are the centre of extracurricular sports activities. To motivate children and young people to do sports in the long term. More info: www.bundesjugendspiele.de
- **Federal programme "Welcome among friends"** (since July 2015). Supports local communities in their efforts to integrate refugee children and youth. More info: www.willkommen-bei-freunden.de

For more information on national programmes in the field of voluntary services see the information sheet on “Voluntary Activities – Germany”.

Programmes run/organised by other ministries/institutions than Ministry for Youth
Federal Ministry of Education and Research:

- **Programme JOBSTARTER plus** (2014-2020). Promote innovation and development of structures in vocational education, foster better regional provision of vocational training places by mobilizing firms and enterprises. More info: www.jobstarter.de
- **School development programme „Ideas for more! Learn full-time“.** More info: www.ganztaegig-lernen.de

Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs:

- **Federal programme „XENOS“.** Integrates activities against discrimination, xenophobia and right-wing extremism into labour-market measures. More info: www.esf.de/portal/generator/6592/xenos.html

Other action plans/official strategies with an impact on youth

National Action Plan for Integration, in force since 2012. One important issue is the improvement of the educational and training situation of young people with migrant background. More info: www.bundesregierung.de/Content/Infomaterial/BPA/IB/2012-01-31-nap-gesamt-barrierefrei.html?jsessionid=EF2A25140711AFB0DA9BF3CE1596345D.s3t1 and www.bmi.bund.de/DE/Themen/Migration-Integration/Integration/integration_node.html

Programmes and actions for specific target groups

- **Integration of young people with migrant background** (12 to 27 years) since 2005. Provides individual support and advice. The programme is run by the Youth Migration Services. More info: www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de
- **Girls' day – Girls' future day**. Gives female school pupils an insight into lines of work girls often do not consider in the process of choosing a future career. More info: www.girls-day.de
- **New ways for boys**, since 2005. Encourages local initiatives to address the needs of boys who need guidance during the transitional stage between school graduation and career. More info: www.neue-wege-fuer-jungs.de

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

Total budget 'child and youth policy' (Section 17) 2015: 395,800,000 € (2014: 381,358,000 €), thereof projection for support programmes (Child and Youth Plan of the Federation as the central instrument for the support of child and youth services): 148803000 € (2014: 147,606,000 €)

- o Allocated budget in 2015 for the support of specific groups:
 - 56,650,000 € (2014: 55 650 000 €) for actions fostering the integration of young people with migration background
 - 6,700,000 (2014: 7,392,000 €) for actions fostering the social and professional integration of young people

(Source: www.bundeshaushalt-info.de/fileadmin/de.bundeshaushalt/content_de/dokumente/2015/soll/Haushaltsplan-2015.pdf p. 2409, 2412, 2413)

Regional level

Each federal state has its own regional budget allocated to youth issues. It is difficult to provide numbers here. Some examples:

- Baden-Württemberg
 - o Allocated budget in 2016 in the regional youth plan (managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports): 24,7 Mio € (2015: 24,4 Mio. €, 2014: 25190100 €). (<https://sozialministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m->

[sm/intern/downloads/Publikationen/Landesjugendplan_46_2015_2016.pdf](https://www.recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_vbl_detail_text?anw_nr=7&vd_id=13929), p. 52)

- North Rhine Westphalia (biggest federal state according to population)
 - o Allocated yearly budget in the regional child and youth plan (2013-2017, managed by the Ministry of Family Affairs, Children, Youth, Culture and Sports): 100225700 €.
(https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_vbl_detail_text?anw_nr=7&vd_id=13929)
- Brandenburg
 - o Allocated budget in 2016 for child and youth affairs (managed by the Ministry Education, Youth and Sports):
 - Youth work and youth organisations' work: 15,534,000 € (2015: 14,956,000 €)
 - Child and youth protection, Promotion of family education: 44,000 € (2015: 44,000 €)
 - Further tasks of the youth services: 3,835,000 € (2015: 9,010,000 €)
 - Child and youth services according to SGB VIII (excluding child daycare): 19,413,000 € (2015: 24,010,000 €)
(www.mdf.brandenburg.de/media_fast/4055/00_Haushaltsgesetz_2015-16.pdf, p. 57)
- Saxony-Anhalt
 - o Allocated budget in 2016 for child and youth affairs (managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs): 342,072,100 € (2015: 312,781,400 €).
(www.mf.sachsen-anhalt.de/fileadmin/Bibliothek/Politik_und_Verwaltung/MF/Dokumente/HP_15-16/Einzelplan_05_Ministerium_fuer_Arbeit_und_Soziales.pdf, p. 6)

7. European Dimension of youth policy

This section should outline how European strategies, policy commitments and programmes are implemented at the national level.

7.1 Council of Europe.

Please describe how Council of Europe programmes or activities are implemented at the national level.

The Activities organised by the CoE, e.g. trainings for European youth work, study sessions, intercultural language courses and others, are open to members of German youth organisations. German youth organisations also make use of the funding

schemes of the European Youth Foundation (EYF). More info on projects supported in the past and grant decisions for 2016: www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation/projects-supported

7.2 European Union

7.2.1 Implementation of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme

The German Agency for the European Union (EU) Programme Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION is responsible for supporting the EU Commission in putting the programme Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION into practice. The national agency allocates grants for international out-of-school activities as well as for youth initiatives. It also acts in an advisory capacity in the planning, running and organisation of projects and provides information on developments and possibilities in the programme Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION. Every year, the national agency offers an extensive range of further training and education courses for staff that specialises in international youth work and young people who want to carry out their own projects. The national agency helps in the search for international partners and, as a SALTO centre (Support for Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities), coordinates further training activities which are offered by all national agencies in the network.

The implementation of the Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION programme in Germany follows the priorities of the Federal Government's youth policy in the field of integrating disadvantaged young people (strengthening the participation of disadvantaged youth people in the programme activities and foster their civil engagement – *for more details see information sheet on Voluntary Activities, chapter 9*).

Germany is involved as a partner in **EURODESK** – the European network of information services in 34 countries providing a unique access to European information for young people and those who work with them. It is represented by the national agency EURODESK Germany (www.eurodesk.de) which is attached to IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (www.ijab.de).

7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level

Please describe if there is a national strategy for following up the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018).

The implementation of the EU Youth Strategy in Germany is based on a joint decision by the Youth Ministers of all EU Member States taken in 2009 when it adopted the [Resolution](#) on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field for the period 2010 - 2018.

In the run-up to the decision, both the [Federal Government](#) and the [Länder](#) had been actively involved in the development of the European cooperation in the youth field. They now actively shape the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy in Germany under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and the Supreme Youth Authorities of the *Länder*. By doing so, they pursue the goal to adopt incentives from the European cooperation in the youth field and to make them a key force for the qualification of policy and practice in the field of child and youth services.

According to the federal structure of German youth policy, the core of the implementation in Germany lies within a close cooperation between the Federal Government and the *Länder* which is based on a [Resolution](#) of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth and Family Affairs (JFMK) of 17th/18th June 2010. To support the process, the national Ministry of Youth finances a joint working group with representatives from the Federation and the *Länder* (Bund-Länder-AG), an accompanying scientific monitoring of this cooperation and the Transfer Agency for Youth Policy Cooperation between Germany and the EU.

The joint working group consults and coordinates the common issues of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy.

The central topics for the period from 2014 to 2018, confirmed by the joint working group, are:

1. to support participation and to strengthen democracy;
 - Aim: to strengthen the culture of participation in Germany through impulses from the EU level
 - Aim: to promote the participation of young people in designing European policy
2. to foster social inclusion and to shape transitions into the labour market;
 - Aim: to promote cross-border mobility and give disadvantaged young people on their way from school to labour market a chance to learn
 - Aim: to strengthen the use and involvement of young people in offers made by institutions in the field of youth social work
 - Aim: to use peer-learning as a way to improve offers and methods used in the field of youth social work
3. to recognise non-formal and informal learning in the field of youth work

- Aim: to improve the visibility and recognition of non-formal and informal learning in the field of youth work.

The Federation and the *Länder* take action within their respective scopes of responsibility and involve the actors of youth services and the young people themselves. To ensure participation, the Federation has established a National Dialogue, an advisory board of the Federation, and annual forums for the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. It also supports a Coordination Office for the Structured Dialogue (youth participation) at the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR).

In the future, the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy shall be linked more closely to the implementation of the new Independent Youth Policy. There is a consultation going on with regard to the connecting elements of both processes as for example participation, school-to-work transitions, education, the target group etc. The new national Youth Strategy of the Federal Ministry for Youth „Action for a youth-oriented society” (Handeln für eine jugendgerechte Gesellschaft) 2015-2018 forms the political framework for this process.

The entire process of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy in Germany is made visible through the website www.jugendhilfeportal.de/eu-jugendstrategie/.

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Germany

Fachkräfteportal - information, cooperation and communication platform for experts working in child and youth services: www.jugendhilfeportal.de/politik/kinder-und-jugendpolitik/

Infosystem Child and Youth Services – Presentation sheets: www.kinder-jugendhilfe.info/en_kjhg/cgi-bin/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=4426, last updated 2009.