COUNTRY SHEET
ON
YOUTH POLICY
IN GERMANY

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Context and principles of national youth policy ........................................... 3
   1.1 Context of national youth policy ......................................................... 3
   1.2. Principles of national youth policy .................................................. 6
2. Statistics on young people ........................................................................... 8
3. Actors and Structures ................................................................................ 10
   3.1 Public authorities ................................................................................. 10
   3.1.1 National public authorities ............................................................... 10
   3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field .......... 16
   3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field .......... 16
   3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors) ....... 18
   3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field .................................................................................. 19
   3.3.1 Youth Councils ................................................................................ 19
   3.3.2 Youth NGOs .................................................................................. 22
   3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)? ......................................................... 24
4. Legislation ..................................................................................................... 26
5. National Policy Programmes on youth ........................................................ 31
6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth ........................................... 39
7. European Dimension of youth policy ........................................................ 41
   7.1 Council of Europe ................................................................................. 41
   7.2 European Union .................................................................................. 43
   7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action programme ......................... 43
   7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level .................................................................................. 43
8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Germany .................... 44
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. Consequently, the Federal Government understands child and youth policy as a general responsibility of society, a challenge which all societal groups and protagonists need to face. In this context, the Federal Government defines its child and youth policy as:

Firstly, a governmental policy anchored in the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. In addition to the central issues of the Ministry’s youth policy such as youth welfare and protection, alternative civilian service, the Voluntary Social Service Year/Voluntary Ecological Service Year, etc., the Ministry is also responsible for, inter alia, central programmes of the Federal Government’s youth policy and important youth policy interfaces with other policy areas.

Secondly, 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 policy (school, university, vocational training), labour market, social, health, justice, interior, regional and urban policies.

Thirdly, an enabling child and youth policy. Through co-operation with other societal players, 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 offerings of child and youth policy complement 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.

The introduction of parenting benefits, initiatives to improve the situation of childcare facilities and the action programme for multi-generational centres are examples of important milestones for enhanced equal opportunities and greater cohesion in our society.

Young people need to have the opportunity to make active use of their chances on the basis of self-determination, which includes the equality of girls and boys, young women and young men. It has become more important than ever to find suitable responses to the processes of modernisation and pluralisation in a changing society. Dealing with contradictory and constantly changing expectations and developments in the field of communication and new media is a constant challenge not only for young people, but also for policy-makers.

Youth research has shown that young people tend to take a critical view of democratic day-to-day life and in particular the central political institutions in the Federal Republic of Germany. They react to political and economic changes, pinpoint specific problems and expect to see solutions in these areas. Young people would like to have more opportunities for involvement and democratic participation in schools, universities, at work and in their immediate environment. Many young people are willing to make social and political commitments. However, their willingness for commitment is not so much directed at established political organisations and processes, but rather at areas which are less institutionalised and whose contents they can determine to a greater extent. Enhancing the participation and involvement of children and young people in political and societal processes is of paramount importance.

The threat to our democracy emanating from right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, violence and terrorism represents a particular challenge. This is why a debate on right-wing extremism and how to combat this phenomenon is one of the major tasks of youth policy. In addition to the necessary repressive measures, the programmes to combat right-wing extremism implemented against extremism and violence under the auspices of the Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance have a particular focus on strengthening our democratic culture and educating young people in the spirit of democracy and tolerance.
As for national youth policy and youth work, the Federal Child and Youth Plan is also the central funding mechanism for international and European youth policy and youth work. 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:
14.014.593 (2013)

Number and Percentage of young people in global population: 14.014.593 = 17,1% (2013)

Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population:
Male: 7.179.031 = 8,8% (2013)
Female: 6.835.562 = 8,3% (2013)

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth
Minister: Manuela Schwesig
Duration of mandate: until September 2017
Youth Department in the Ministry
Main tasks of the Youth department: The Youth department is in charge of federal laws concerning youth, for example: 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 organisations of public youth services. 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 takes part in the further development and implementation of European youth programmes and asks independent experts to inform about the situation of young people in Germany and supports respective research projects.

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

**Director responsible** for Youth in the Ministry: N.N., [info@bmfsjservice.bund.de](mailto:info@bmfsjservice.bund.de) (nominated in March/April 2014)

**Contact person** in the youth department competent for European youth policy: Uwe Finke-Timpe, [info@bmfsjservice.bund.de](mailto:info@bmfsjservice.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](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)
- Federal Ministry of the Interior, [www.bmi.bund.de](http://www.bmi.bund.de)
- Federal Agency for Civic Education, [www.bpb.de](http://www.bpb.de)
- Regional Agencies for Civic Education, [www.politische-bildung.de](http://www.politische-bildung.de)
- Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, [www.bamf.de](http://www.bamf.de)
- Federal Agency for Technical Relief, [www.thw.de](http://www.thw.de)
- Federal Office for Information Security, [www.bsi.bund.de](http://www.bsi.bund.de)
- Federal Ministry of Justice, [www.bmj.bund.de](http://www.bmj.bund.de)
- Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, [www.bmwi.de](http://www.bmwi.de)
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, [www.bmas.de](http://www.bmas.de)
- Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, [www.bmelv.de](http://www.bmelv.de)
- Federal Ministry of Defence, [www.bmvg.de](http://www.bmvg.de)
- Social Services of the Federal Armed Forces, [www.bundeswehr-sozialwerk.de](http://www.bundeswehr-sozialwerk.de)
- Federal Ministry of Health, [www.bmg.bund.de](http://www.bmg.bund.de)
- Federal Centre for Health Education, [www.bzga.de](http://www.bzga.de)
- Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Development, [www.bmvbs.de](http://www.bmvbs.de)
- Federal Highway Research Institute, [www.bast.de](http://www.bast.de)
- German Road Safety Council, [www.dvr.de](http://www.dvr.de)
- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, [www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de)
- Federal Environment Agency, [www.umweltbundesamt.de](http://www.umweltbundesamt.de)
- Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, [www.bfn.de](http://www.bfn.de)
Federal Ministry of Education and Research, [www.bmbf.bund.de](http://www.bmbf.bund.de)
Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, [www.bibb.de](http://www.bibb.de)
National Education for Europe Agency in the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, [www.na-bibb.de](http://www.na-bibb.de)
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, [www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)
GIZ (broad-based expertise for sustainable development), [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)
KfW Entwicklungsbank, [www.kfw.de](http://www.kfw.de)

Offices

The Commission of Experts for the Child and Youth Report of the Federal Government ([www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/aktuelles,did=141082.html](http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/aktuelles,did=141082.html)) consists of representatives from universities, non-statutory organisations in the field of child and youth services and cities and towns. Composition of commission changes with each report. Report focuses on one specific topic in each legislative period (Next on to be published in 2013: reports on the living situation of young people and the provision of child and youth services in Germany).

The Federal Advisory Committee on Youth Problems ([www.bundesjugendkuratorium.de](http://www.bundesjugendkuratorium.de)) advises 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. 15 youth service experts are called into the Committee for one parliamentary session. In its activity the Committee takes position with and gives recommendations with regard to present priorities in the child and youth policy of the Federal government. Furthermore, it proposes topics where it thinks that action is needed.

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

The Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons ([www.bundesprüfstelle.de](http://www.bundesprüfstelle.de)) 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 the Alternative Civilian Service ([www.zivildienst.de](http://www.zivildienst.de)) 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 interrupted in July 2011, the right of conscientious objection still exists.
YOUTH for Europe – German Agency for the EU YOUTH IN ACTION Programme (www.webforum-jugend.de) is mandated by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as Germany's national agency to support the EU Commission in implementing the EU YOUTH IN ACTION programme by awarding grants for international extracurricular activities and initiatives by young people. YOUTH for Europe also co-ordinates further training activities as a SALTO Centre (Support for Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities) and part of a network. The SALTO Centre at YOUTH for Europe is also responsible for the development and introduction of Youthpass, a system of describing and confirming non-formal learning processes in the context of YOUTH IN ACTION.

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues
Name: Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth at the German Federal Parliament (www.bundestag.de/bundestag/ausschuesse17/a13/index.jsp)
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

Name: Commission for the Perception of Children’s Needs (www.bundestag.de/bundestag/ausschuesse17/a13/kiko/index.jsp)
Name of President / Chair: Eckhard Pols (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

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field
The Conference of Youth and Family Ministers is an expert body consisting of the ministers and senators in charge of child, youth and family policy 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. The
Chair of the Conference changes regularly, in 2014 it rests with Rhineland Palatinate, namely the Ministry for family, children, youth, culture and sports (www.jfmk.de). 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 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:
http://www.jugendhilfeportal.de/db1/institution/suche/#result

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
- The Child and Youth Welfare Association (www.agj.de), founded in 1949, 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.

- The Federal Association for the Protection of Children and Young People (www.bag-jugendschutz.de) was 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.


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/index.php?m=32). Its current membership includes 26 youth organisations, 16 regional youth councils and 5 affiliated organisations. The 5 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, particularly in the area of international youth policy.

There are 16 Regional Youth Councils. 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. All relevant youth organisations are represented here:
eclesiastical organisations, trade union associations, those with humanitarian or socialist
orientations, ecologically active ones, fostering traditions or committed to equal sexual orientations.
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.de
Children and Youth Council of Saxony-Anhalt, www.kjr-lsa.de
Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, www.ljrh.de
Regional Youth Council of Baden-Württemberg, www.ljbw.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, www.jugend.inmv.de
Regional Youth Council of Lower Saxony, www.ljz.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, www.landesjugendring-thueringen.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 about 130
local youth councils (www.ljr-nrw.de/index.php?id=stadt-undkreisjugendringe )

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 from Russia, www.djr-stuttgart.de
German Youth Hostel Association, www.jugendherberge.de
integ-Youth in the Social Association of Germany, www.integ-jugend.de or: http://www.integ-nds.de/
Juvente – Youth Organisation of the Good Templars in Germany, 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.jdjl.org
Young Greens, www.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)

Archive of the German Youth Movement, www.burgludwigstein.de/Archiv.161.0.html
German Youth Institute, www.dji.de
Institute for Applied Family, Childhood and Youth Research at the University of Potsdam (IFK), www.ifk-vehlefanz.de
Institute for Applied Socialisation Research and Early Childhood, www.infans.de
Institute for Child and Youth Services, www.ijj-mainz.de
Institute for Regional Innovation and Social Research – IRIS, www.iris-egris.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
Social Research Institute Mainz, www.ism-mainz.de
Society for the Study of Intercultural Perspectives, www.ssip-web.de
Working Group on Expert Conferences on Youth Services of the Scientific Association for Urban Studies, www.fachtagungen-jugendhilfe.de
Since there are already several networks on youth topics in Germany, a new national network for youth policy is not going to be installed.

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 defence 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 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
- 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 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
  - Bill Amending the Juvenile Courts Act
  - Bill Introducing Retroactive Orders of Preventive Detention for Sentences Under Juvenile Criminal Law
- Law of the Parent and Child
  - 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
  - Act on Assistance for Women in Special Pregnancy Termination Cases
  - 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
  - Länder Convention on Youth Protection in the Media
- Protection of Young Persons at Work Act
  - Protection of Children at Work Ordinance
- Social Code
  - Social Code, Book II
  - Social Code, Book III
  - Fourth Act on the Amendment of the Social Code Book III - Improvement of the Qualification and Employment Opportunities of Young People
  - Social Code, Book IX – Rehabilitation and Participation of Persons with Disabilities
  - Social Code, Book V – Statutory Health Insurance
  - Social Code, Book VIII – Child and Youth Services
    - Act on the Further Development of Child and Youth Services
    - Day Care Expansion Act
  - Social Code, Book XII – Social Welfare
  - 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

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. In this context, the Federal Government defines its child and youth policy as:

1. **governmental policy** anchored in the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth ([www.bmfsfj.de](http://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. **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 central instrument of child and youth support by the Federation is the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (*Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes*). The support should contribute to the growing together of the young generation in Germany and Europe and to understanding and
tolerance beyond borders as well as to the improvement of dialogue between the generations and to the integration of foreigners living in Germany. **Support goals and programmes:**

- Political education
- Cultural education
- Youth and sport
- Federal Youth Games
- Social education
- Voluntary social year
- Voluntary ecological year
- Long-term voluntary services
- Social voluntary work
- International voluntary services
- Youth social work
- Equality of girls and boys, work with girls and boys
- Young people with disabilities
- Assistance for young people and families
- Assistance for children
- Protection of children and young people
- Improved use of the media
- Work with youth organisations
- Child and youth services provided by voluntary social service providers
- Further education
- New approaches in child and youth services, evaluation, innovation
- International youth work
- International study programmes for child and youth services professionals and social workers
- Integration of young people with a migrant background
- Construction, acquisition, equipment and maintenance of child and youth service facilities
- Development and opportunities for young people in social hot spots
- Other support measures

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

**Initiative “To Strengthen Youth”** ([www.jugend-staerken.de](http://www.jugend-staerken.de)). Comprises several programmes directed at disadvantaged youth and youth with migration background, e.g.:

- **Truancy – the 2nd chance.** More info: [www.zweite-chance.eu](http://www.zweite-chance.eu)
- **Competence agencies.** More info: [www.kompetenzagenturen.de](http://www.kompetenzagenturen.de)
- **Youth Migration Services.** More info: [www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de](http://www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de)

**Federal programme „Promote Tolerance – Enforce Competence“.** Includes local action plans and exemplary measures addressing historical and contemporary anti-Semitism, working with young people at a risk of showing right-wing tendencies, prevention and education for the immigrant society and early prevention. More info: [www.toleranz-foerdern.de/](http://www.toleranz-foerdern.de/)

**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](http://www.esf.de/portal/generator/6592/xenos.html)

**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: [http://www.bundesjugendspiele.de](http://www.bundesjugendspiele.de)

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

Programmes run/organised **by other ministries/institutions** than ministry for youth Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology:


Federal Ministry of Education and Research:


Action plans i.e. official strategies


More info: [www.hinsehen-handeln-helfen.de](http://www.hinsehen-handeln-helfen.de) > Aktionsplan


School development programme „Ideas for more! Learn full-time“. More info: [www.ganztaegig-lernen.de](http://www.ganztaegig-lernen.de)


Other action plans/official strategies with an impact on youth

National Action Plan for Integration, 2012. One important issue will be the improvement of the educational and training situation of young people with migrant background. More info: [http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/DE/Pressemitteilungen/BPA/2012/01/2012-01-31-integrationsgipfel.html](http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/DE/Pressemitteilungen/BPA/2012/01/2012-01-31-integrationsgipfel.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](http://www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de)

Project “Intercultural competence as an asset in the career orientation of young females with a migrant background” in Cologne and Dresden. Development of examples, processes and tools for
improved counselling and efficient integration of young women with a migrant background into the labour market.

Project “Living and working in a transcultural society / Mentoring for young male and female migrants with scientific support”. Aims at enlarging women’s skills and experience in career choice and job market orientation, vocational qualifications and skills in social and intercultural sectors as well as strengthening their social commitment.

**Competence agencies**, 1 September 2011 until 31 August 2013. To provide for skills for social and occupational integration to disadvantaged adolescents. More info: [www.kompetenzagenturen.de](http://www.kompetenzagenturen.de)

**Truancy – the 2nd chance**, 1 September 2011 until 31 August 2013. To encourage young people to return to school and finish their schooling successfully, thus receiving a second chance. More info: [www.zweite-chance.eu](http://www.zweite-chance.eu)

**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](http://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](http://www.neue-wege-fuer-jungs.de)


**Integration via exchange** (IdA). Run by Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs. To improve chances for employment for disadvantaged youth target groups, mainly young people, unemployed young adults and young single parents by gaining practical experience in other European countries and thus improve their knowledge of other languages and their social and professional expertise. More information: [http://www.esf.de/portal/generator/9824/ida.html](http://www.esf.de/portal/generator/9824/ida.html)

A more profound picture of all the programmes under the auspices of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as well as other ministries can be obtained from [Child and Youth Policy. Child and Youth Services in the Federal Republic of Germany](http://www.kinder-jugendhilfe.org/en_kjhg/cgi-bin/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=4426) (online version last updated in 2009)

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6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth
National level
Total: 368.710.000€ (2013), 332.087.000€ (2012), 283.973.000 € (2011)
Child and Youth Plan of the Federation: 148.091.000€ (2013), 147.931.000€ (2012), 149.817.000 € (2011)
Allocated budget in 2013 for the support of specific groups:
   55.550.000€ for actions fostering the integration of young people with migration background
   7.283.000€ for actions fostering the social and professional integration of young people

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
Budget allocated in the youth plan (Means managed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Family, Women and Senior citizens, budget includes family affairs) in 2013: 82.400.000 €
2014: 67.800.000 €
North Rhine Westphalia (biggest federal state according to population)
Budget allocated in the child and youth plan in 2013: 20.045.140 € (100.225.700 € for 5 years (draft))

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 grant decisions for 2012: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/fej/EYF_funded_projects_2012.pdf
More info: http://www.eyf.coe.int/fej/portal/media-type/html/user/anon/page/Projects_supported;jsessionid=D3615E8404AA78F3AC68D70993CE8C21

7.2 European Union.

7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action programme
The German Agency for the European Union (EU) Programme YOUTH IN ACTION is responsible for supporting the EU Commission in putting the programme YOUTH IN ACTION into practice. As the national agency for Germany it allocates grants for international out-of-school activities as well as for youth initiatives. The national agency also acts in an advisory capacity in the planning, running and organisation of projects and provides information on developments and possibilities in the programme 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. YOUTH for Europe helps in the search for international partners and, as a SALTO centre (Support for Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities), it coordinates further training activities which are offered by all national agencies in the network.

The implementation of the 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 Questionnaire on Voluntary Activities, chapter 9).

Germany is involved as a partner in EURODESK – the European network of information services in 27 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 EU Youth strategy on the national level is implemented and is being documented on the website www.jugendhilfeportal.de, http://www.jugendhilfeportal.de/eu-jugendstrategie/

The EU Youth Strategy in Germany

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. At that time, the Youth Council of the EU adopted the Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field for the period 2010 - 2018. By this political project - in Germany referred to in brief as ‘EU Youth Strategy’ - the Member States are invited to use European impulses within eight commonly agreed fields of action to realise national implementation strategies. Thus, the EU wants to achieve the following Europe-wide objectives:

to create more and equal opportunities for all young people in education and in the labour market, and

to promote active citizenship, social inclusion and the solidarity of all young people.

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 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 17./18. June 2010. In a joint working group, representatives from the Federation and the Länder consult and coordinate the common issues of the implementation such as the central topics for the period from 2010 to 2013 (to support participation and to strengthen democracy; to promote inclusion and to shape transitions; to recognise non-formal learning; participation; successful transitions into the labour market; recognition of informal and non-formal learning). The issues selected by the Federation and the Länder are no new matters for German youth policy. The primary objective is to promote the development of these issues through impulses from the EU and,

to strengthen the opportunities of young people and to empower their potential according to the EU Youth Strategy as well as
to profile the activities of child and youth services by adequate youth policy measures in order to
give them more visibility and recognition.

In the field of “Participation”, the EU Youth Strategy shall therefore support the effective
participation of young people, for instance through addressing new target groups and implementing
new formats.

On the topic of “Inclusion and transitions”, it shall support the social inclusion of young people with
fewer opportunities into the regular system of education, training and work through developing new
learning areas, for instance by promoting cross-border mobility.

And last but not least, it shall help to increase the visibility and the validation of non-formal and
informal learning, for instance the acquisition of competency through youth work activities.

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).

To support the process, the BMFSFJ additionally finances a Service Office for the Cooperation
between the Federation and the Länder, the accompanying scientific monitoring of this
cooperation, and the Transfer Agency for Youth Policy - Cooperation between Germany and the
EU.

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Germany

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

For detailed information please check the links in this document.