

The youth policy initiative **JiVE. Youth Work International – Experiencing Diversity** is managed by



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Youth Work International –
Experiencing Diversity



A youth policy initiative to promote
education and participation



International Youth Service of the
Federal Republic of Germany



JUGEND
für Europa



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JiVE: Empowering young people and experts through international youth work

Enabling all young people to participate fully in their communities, and encouraging greater openness within German society and social institutions, are important challenges on the way to creating a viable society for Germany. Research has shown that the concepts and methods used in international youth work are exceptionally promising in terms of improving equal opportunities and enabling greater participation for young people.

IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany and JUGEND für Europa, the German Agency for the EU programme Youth in Action are the coordinators of the youth policy initiative JiVE, which is a platform for associations, organisations and initiatives to make these promises a reality.

All young people should be allowed to benefit from non-formal educational activities under an international youth work project. To this end, JiVE encourages cooperation between organisations that provide child and youth services, serving as a link between international youth work, youth migration services and immigrant community groups. JiVE seeks to promote cultural diversity in a respectful, careful manner.

JiVE contributes towards the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy in Germany and consists of eight sub-initiatives:

- **Kommune goes International**
- **Jugendsozialarbeit macht mobil**
- **international:interkulturell**
- **Interkulturell goes on!**
- **Diversity-aware international youth work**
- **Pilot project: Facilitating cross-border learning mobility**
- **SPORTIVE – Sports Youth Work International – Experiencing Diversity**
- **Inclusion International**

Kommune goes International

Under the initiative Kommune goes International, 21 local authorities (Kommunen) across Germany are working towards a common goal: over a period of three years, they have been working together with local partners to strengthen international youth work at the local level and open it up to all young people. Particular emphasis is given to improving access to education and participation for young people from immigrant families and those with fewer opportunities.

Kommune goes International aims to

- enable all young people to take part in an international youth exchange, youth meeting or volunteering project,
- raise awareness at the local level of the benefits of international youth work and translate them into practice,

- strengthen local child and youth services and increase the number of international youth work projects at the local level,
- provide training for experts working in local child and youth services, youth social work and youth migration services and give them access to international exchange schemes for experts, and
- foster cooperation and collaboration at the regional, national and international level.

Supported by an advisory team led by IJAB, the participating local authorities and other stakeholders jointly drew up local development plans for international youth work and in many cases gained political backing from the local child and youth services committees. Having analysed the existing situation and local needs, the local networks defined objectives and designed and implemented measures that correspond to the situations on the ground.

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Jugendsozialarbeit macht mobil

This sub-initiative serves to continue align the characteristics and formats of international youth work with the requirements and circumstances of young people in need of assistance at their transition from school to working life, and to promote their mobility.

To this end, four youth social work organisations – Arbeiterwohlfahrt (Workers' Welfare), the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit (Federal Association of Protestant Youth Social Work Organisations), the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft örtlich regionaler Träger der Jugendsozialarbeit (Federal Association of Local Youth Social Work Organisations) and Internationaler Bund (International Federation of Non-profit Organisations for Youth Work, Social Work and Training) – are each tasked with organising one process-centred development initiative involving several workshops over the space of two years. These serve to promote an international exchange between experts, encourage more youth mobility, and continue to shape activities in the field of international youth work and youth social work. The discussions also focus on how to leverage the benefits of youth mobility and periods

spent abroad, and how this ties in with the need to define and recognise the skills and abilities acquired in the process.

Priority is given to

- promoting mobility among and support for young people and providing greater assistance to youth social work organisations that run international youth work projects,
- the continued development of didactic concepts, promotion instruments and formats used in international youth work and expert programmes, with consideration given to the needs of disadvantaged young people and to current youth policy issues.



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international:interkulturell

Managed by the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR) and its member organisations, the sub-initiative **international.interkulturell** aims to improve access to the field of international youth work for young immigrant community groups.

Specifically, it serves to stimulate interest among young people from a variety of cultural backgrounds in working as volunteers under an international youth work project. Another objective is to encourage these community groups to play a stronger role in the Child and Youth Plan of the German Government, notably its International Youth Work programme, and to strengthen international youth cooperation as an instrument for greater participation in society.

The sub-initiative organises workshops and seminars for multipliers as well as coaching sessions and networking activities

that are designed with the needs of the participating community groups in mind. These activities are part of other hands-on international youth work projects. One young immigrant community group has been selected to undergo special training so it can later function as a central office to manage funding under the German Federal Child and Youth Plan. These measures are organised independently by the affiliated youth organisations – the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend in Deutschland (Federation of the Protestant Youth in Germany), the Bund der Alevitischen Jugend in Deutschland (Federation of Alevi Youth in Germany), djo – Deutsche Jugend in Europa (German Youth in Europe), Naturfreundejugend Deutschlands (German Young Naturefriends), SJD – Die Falken Deutschlands (German Young Falcons) and DIDF-Jugend (Socialist Youth of Germany – The Falcons) and DIDF-Jugend (DIDF-Youth) – with DBJR in a coordinating capacity. A conference will be held to mark the completion of the sub-initiative in 2014.

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Interkulturell goes on!

JiVE aims to demonstrate to all interested groups and organisations how they can benefit from mobility programmes and where to obtain information and advisory services on international youth work.

The JiVE sub-initiative **Interkulturell goes on!** is aimed at immigrant (community) organisations, young immigrants' groups, organisations that work with disadvantaged young people or young members of the immigrant community, organisations offering educational trips for children and young people, and schools.

The regional kick-off events in Weimar, Cologne, Karlsruhe and Hanover were attended by associations, organisations and other providers of child and youth services. The participants drew up a catalogue of objectives and requirements concerning training for staff, assistance in completing applications, and creating international networks.

Since 2012 the sub-initiative has offered tailored coaching services to its partners to strengthen international youth mobility as a priority area within their organisations. During these coaching sessions development plans are designed in line with the specific needs of the organisations in question.

The JiVE team at transfer e.V. supports and manages the process.



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Diversity-aware international youth work

The JiVE sub-initiative **Diversity-aware international youth work** is a cross-sectoral initiative to promote a dialogue among experts on ways to encourage greater participation among young people and promote diversity in international youth work.

It aims to raise awareness among all participating organisations and other stakeholders of the importance of diversity orientation in international youth work and to strengthen the debate through hands-on training for experts working in this field.

The sub-initiative is being implemented in several steps:

- Workshop, expert network and kick-off events:
An ongoing series of theoretical and practical events for experts and interested newcomers.
- A network by the name of DIVE, a cooperative venture initiated by experts, IDA e.V., JUGEND für Europa and transfer e.V. Its members exchange information on the theoretical and practical challenges of diversity-aware international youth work and offer advisory services and training on international youth work.
- International training:
The international training course More than Culture teaches participants the basics of diversity-aware international youth work. It was designed specifically for those working in the practical projects of the other sub-initiatives.
- Handbook:
The results of the discussions on diversity-aware international youth work are being compiled into a handbook for experts working in educational settings.

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Netzwerk für diversitätsbewusste
(internationale) Jugendarbeit

Pilot project: Facilitating cross-border learning mobility



Grenzüberschreitende
Lernmobilität ermöglichen

The pilot project is divided into three areas:

Area 1: *Länder*-specific development initiatives

Development initiatives designed to integrate cross-border learning mobility into youth policy are being trialled in five federal states (*Länder*) across Germany. This involves looking at the many international youth work activities on offer in these *Länder* that are specific to the circumstances on the ground or to a certain target group and that are offered in cooperation with mainstream and vocational education institutions and local voluntary and public-sector youth service providers, and to coordinate and optimise these. The work being done in this area also ties in with the JiVE sub-initiative **Kommune goes International**. The respective project activities are aligned with each other.

Area 2: Expert initiative on cross-border mobility

This area focuses specifically on experts working in child and youth services. Information on existing training and support options to promote mobility among experts is used to design a new strategy to encourage greater mobility among this target group. A team of experts is on hand to assist.

Area 3: Interministerial working group on cross-border mobility

The work being done in this area involves a systematic analysis of the obstacles to youth mobility as identified by researchers, analysts and a wide variety of institutions and organisations. A working group is to be set up at the national level with representatives of various ministries to achieve agreement on how to address any existing national challenges to cross-border youth mobility.

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The pilot project
is managed by:



Federal Ministry of
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth



JUGEND
für Europa



SPORTIVE – Sports Youth Work International – Experiencing Diversity

Sports clubs and associations succeed in bringing together people of all ages, with different ethnic backgrounds and from various social groups. They don't just exercise to keep fit and stay healthy – being a member of a sports club or group also encourages them to interact with their peers outside the gym or off the pitch.

Organised sport, a low-threshold activity, is also an effective way to reach out to those children and adolescents who are often excluded from certain social structures.

Nonetheless, young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are underrepresented when it comes to international youth exchanges involving sports clubs.

Together with its member organisations, Deutsche Sportjugend has launched **SPORTIVE**, a sub-initiative of JiVE, in a conscious move to improve access to international youth work for all children and adolescents.

Under **SPORTIVE**, existing instruments and networks to promote social integration, intercultural learning and international youth work among children and young people are used to

raise awareness among organisations that offer international projects of the benefits of international youth work when it comes to integration and participation of young people with fewer opportunities, and to assist them in their work through training.

The partners work together to develop special information material and tools to improve integration and participation of young people with fewer opportunities through the medium of international youth work in a sports environment.

SPORTIVE offers a range of basic and advanced training modules plus a series of events for interested experts working in child and youth sports to support them in their everyday work.

The meetings are also an ideal opportunity for the experts to network with their peers.

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Inclusion International

The sub-initiative **Inclusion International** aims to give access to international youth mobility projects particularly for children and young people with disabilities, yet another target group that requires special attention.

It is a multi-year venture that supports organisations that offer mobility activities in developing and marketing inclusive concepts so as to open them up to a wider audience. This is done, for one, through training for staff working at all levels: management staff, admin workers and travel group leaders on site, including those working for the other JiVE sub-initiatives. For another, **Inclusion International** offers tailored advisory

services to assist the organisations in developing an effective local framework for offering inclusive activities.

These activities and their success factors are analysed by a team of researchers with the aim of compiling a handbook for education experts working in this field.

There are also plans to integrate quality criteria specific to this target group in existing quality management systems for tour operators and hotels.

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