

Voluntary Social Year in Politics

Voluntary Social Year (FSJ) in Politics means looking behind the scenes of politics for one year, becoming politically active and participating in the community. The volunteers get to know the structures, tasks and work processes in relevant political institutions, support the professional staff of their organisation/institution and implement an independent project.

Volunteers are placed wherever policy is made - in political foundations, committees, administrations and bodies of state and local parliaments, offices of local government, citizens' initiatives, foreign councils, municipal associations, public utilities, public media or facilities of historical and political education. The FSJ in Politics is an educational year, gives orientation outside school or work and links practical activities in the political scene with educational seminars.

• contact: ijgd Berlin, Bonn, Halberstadt, Wismar

Voluntary Social Service Year Abroad

ijgd offers the Voluntary Social Service Year Abroad for participants from Germany. People between 18 and 26 volunteer for twelve months in community projects in the social sector or monument preservation in a different cultural environment. ijgd organises the volunteers' pedagogical and educational support within and outside of Germany.

• contact: ijgd Berlin, Bonn, Hildesheim

European Voluntary Service

European Voluntary Service (EVS) is a European Union programme for youth between the ages of 18 and 30. Participants work between two and twelve months for common welfare in social, cultural and ecological projects. ijgd sends young people abroad and also hosts volunteers in Germany.

• contact: ijgd Berlin, Bonn

Development Volunteers Service 'weltwärts'

The voluntary service in developing countries 'weltwärts' enables direct intercultural exchange in developing countries for young people between 18 and 28, and is also part of development education. It aims to strengthen

global learning and intercultural understanding. Volunteers work in projects covering the entire spectrum of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, e.g. the priority areas of poverty reduction, education, health, food security, environmental protection, natural resource management and human rights. The programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), ijgd is an approved sending organisation for the programme.

• contact: ijgd Berlin (weltwärts I in Africa, Asia, Latin America)

ijgd Bonn (weltwärts II in Eastern Europe, Central Asia)

Voluntary Social Training

The Voluntary Social Training (FSTJ) aims to reach young people between 18 and 25 in socially deprived areas, who have difficulties managing the transition between school and working life without support. Volunteers gather practical experience during the FSTJ, for example in social or cultural institutions or in industrial enterprises in their district.

The FSTJ puts great emphasis on voluntary activities and individual, flexible offerings, but also on the participants' engagement in communal structuring and decision-making processes. The young people gain key competences and additional professional qualifications. The FSJT aims to promote young peoples' commitment and to challenge them to pursue their professional career after the end of the voluntary service.

• contact: ijgd Wismar

Voluntary Year in Socially Deprived Areas

This programme takes place in small social projects in the Berlin districts of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, Neukölln, Wedding and Moabit. The volunteers in FSJ or European Voluntary Service (EVS) are active mainly in children's organisations, in projects with the mentally ill or persons living with AIDS-/HIV-/HCV. Some participants work in "Tandems", i.e. FSJ and EVS volunteers work in cooperation with each other.

• contact: ijgd Berlin

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Introducing ...

ijgd and its Programme.

Dated 04/2010

International Youth Community Services - Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste

- Association for international political education -

We are an independent non-profit organisation that is active in the field of international youth work. We are one of the largest and oldest workcamp organisations in Germany.

After World War II, pupils from Hanover organised the first workcamps aiming to promote reconstruction, to reduce negative stereotypes through international encounters, and to envisage new democratic forms of living together. In addition to workcamps, other activities have become part of our work over time. These are organised by six offices of ijgd and additional project offices. Young people can take part in short-term and long-term voluntary services in Germany and abroad. Our fields of activity include social and ecological service as well as heritage protection. Encouraging intercultural understanding has remained one of our main focuses. We enable people to actively create community life while giving them the opportunity to broaden their horizons.

International Workcamps

The goal of a workcamp is to advance understanding between people and to promote and maintain peace through intercultural and social learning, volunteer work, and self-organisation.

In a workcamp, approximately 15 people from all over the world and every culture imaginable come together for two to three weeks to live together and take part in a meaningful project. All groups provide voluntary, unpaid work and organise their own free time and daily routine.

The groups work approximately 25 hours per week in environmental and nature protection projects, in construction and renovation, or in social, pedagogical, or cultural heritage projects. Some camps have a special focus such as art, media, theater, language, etc.

Camps within Germany

ijgd organises over 100 international camps annually in Germany, which usually take place in the summer. The camps work in cooperation with cities and communities, as well as associations, initiatives, and organisations. People between the ages of 16 and 26 are allowed to participate, except for Teenage Camps with a minimum age of 14 years.

• contact: ijgd Bonn

Camps in Europe, USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Middle East

ijgd works with over 40 partner organisations from about 30 countries worldwide from the "Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisation" network. There are over 2.000 projects to choose from. The minimum age for camps abroad is 18; there is no maximum age, and some teenage camps are offered for ages 14 through to 26. Special projects are the MTVs (Mid Term Volunteering), in which volunteers can work for up to six months. In these camps, the cultural and social similarities and differences of the particular country reflect upon each other.

• contact: ijgd Bonn

Camp Leader Training

ijgd organises the leadership of all workcamps in Germany. The workcamp leaders are thoroughly prepared and trained by ijgd. This training and the experience as a leader can be accepted as an internship for pedagogical and other studies.

Participants and workcamp leaders can take part in seminars concerning political/pedagogical and artistic/cultural issues to advance their education. ijgd also offers a two-year educational training course for interested participants.

• contact: ijgd Bonn, Halberstadt, Hildesheim

Voluntary Services in Africa, Asia, Latin America

Volunteers can also take part in international or bi-national workcamps or in individual voluntary services (Medium and Long-term Voluntary Service – two to twelve months) in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These voluntary services aim to support self-help projects as well as fostering intercultural encounters and exchange. ijgd organises adequate preparation before the stay abroad with the help of experienced community service seminar leaders. After the workcamp, volunteers can take part in evaluation seminars and follow-up activities. ijgd also invites volunteers from Africa, Asia and Latin America to Germany.

• contact: ijgd Berlin

Voluntary Social Year

Volunteers in a Voluntary Social Year (FSJ) commit to a year in the social sector, in which they receive unique insight into social professions. They work with children and young people, old or sick people, and persons with disabilities. In seminars, the volunteers share details about their work experience and engage in self-chosen subjects and creative activities. Young men who are recognized as conscientious objectors to military service may fulfill their civil service requirement by participating in the voluntary year of community service. ijgd offers FSJ in Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Schles-



wig-Holstein and Saxony-Anhalt.

• contact: all ijgd offices

In the project "Youth helps Youth" in Saxony-Anhalt, ijgd offers the FSJ in projects in the field of informal children and youth work, such as in cultural-pedagogical projects, youth leisure activities and youth educational centres, or girls' projects.

• contact: ijgd Halberstadt

Young people from abroad can participate in various German states in a FSJ.

• contact: ijgd Bonn, Berlin, Potsdam

Voluntary Ecological Year

ijgd organises the Voluntary Ecological Year (FÖJ) which offers experiences in the field of nature and environmental work in Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia. The volunteers are active in environmental organisations and associations, environmental education centers, cultivation, horticulture and institutions of forest holding, water management and ecological architecture. ijgd organises the pedagogical support, including seminars, supervision of volunteers in their projects, and individual mentoring.

• contact: ijgd Potsdam, Halberstadt, Erfurt

Voluntary Year in Monument Preservation and Care

ijgd organises the project "youth mason's guild" together with the German Foundation for Monument Protection (Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz) in Berlin, Brandenburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, Bavaria and Lower Saxony.

ijgd gives pedagogical support in seminars, individual mentoring, and supervision of volunteers in their projects. The volunteers work in organisations for monument conservation, museums, other cultural institutions, public authorities for construction- and grounds maintenance, restoration, as well as in architectural and planning offices.

• contact: ijgd Halberstadt, Potsdam, Wismar, Duisburg, Marburg, Görlitz, Mühlhausen, Stralsund, Soest, Regensburg, Stade