

: Background

Hesse is a region of 6 million inhabitants in the centre of Germany. Our main cities in Hesse are Frankfurt/Main, Darmstadt, Gießen, Marburg, Fulda and Kassel. Wiesbaden near the river Rhine is the capital of the region of Hesse.

Since April 1946 the youth organizations were licensed by the former American authorities. In 1947, the independent organizations from adult structures, founded the Youth Council of Hesse in Frankfurt as a work group of regional active youth organizations. Today, the Youth Council has 31 member organizations.

In our statement of principles it is also said: We are active against fascism, racism. We are working for peace solutions.

Supporting the cooperation between the partnership regions as well as facing the developing European Union, these are important tasks for us.

Titelfoto: archive of Youth Council of Hesse



Hessischer Jugendring

Schiersteiner Str. 31–33

65187 Wiesbaden

Fon 0611 990 83-0

Fax 0611 990 83-60

info@hessischer-jugendring.de

www.hessischer-jugendring.de

INFORMATION



www.hessischer-jugendring.de

: Youth Council of Hesse



Society of youth associations in the state of Hesse

: Youth Council of Hesse

The youth council is today working with an office of eight workers with a permanent address in Wiesbaden. We are in permanent contact to the parliament and the ministry of youth and social affairs. So we are involved in more or less all steps of youth policies belonging to the sector beside school education system and the universities.

We are concentrating our activities belonging to the free organized part of the youth, which is up to 30 percent of the youth population. The German law of supporting youth in the society is defined up to the age of 27.

We coordinate about 6 million Euro (given by the state lottery) for supporting youth work for 1 million children and young people.

- ▶ We moderate with the hessian youth organizations, approximately 70 youth workers, sponsored up to 80 percent of the costs by the regional government. These professionals are responsible for 70.000 volunteers.
- ▶ We are engaged in political education developing a civil society, and we are organizing different kinds of events like meetings, congresses, trainings and networking sessions.
- ▶ We are developing strategies and material for volunteer education and supporting them.
- ▶ We are publishing handbooks, monthly newsletters and a printed journal three times a year which is called "hessische jugend" ("hessian youth").

: Youth Associations

The youth organizations united in the Regional Youth Council of Hesse are seeking for different aims and are differently oriented. The variety of member organizations goes from religiously oriented associations over scouts, ecological, cultural and humanitarian organizations up to worker's youth federations. Their main tasks besides individual differences are young people and their dealing with everyday life. The youth organizations are working directly responsible without government-control being granted by statutory funds according to the Child and Youth Services Act.

Their basis grounds on their youth workers' honorary work. These youth workers take care of spare time activities with young people in self-organized groups, which enable them to experience community. Such group activities are of different nature according to the related youth associations' interest and character. The member organizations of the Hessian Youth Council offer a lot of possibilities for boys and girls to arrange their spare time self-determined. The offer variety reaches from dancing and folklore, making music and singing over theatre and cabaret, sports and playing up to trekking and climbing, hobby work and handicraft.

The youth associations' work is according to their own demand mainly educational and intellectual work. In contrast to school education this work is being carried out voluntarily without any performance or marks' pressure. Its principle is „political education“ and creates the possibility for adolescents to learn together with others democratic behavior and politically responsible acting as well as to represent their interests. Reflections on historical experiences are hereby as important as considering current political, social and ecological problems.

: Structures

The Youth Council is a registered non-profit association. It is a democratic controlled organization with the following authorities:

- ▶ General Assembly
- ▶ Main Committee
- ▶ Executive Board

The General Assembly meets every two years to discuss fundamental positions of the Youth Council's work and to agree upon the main tasks for the coming year. The member organizations send their delegates according to the number of their individual members.

: Tasks and Work Priorities

Our main task is to represent the interests of youth and common aims of the member organizations in public, especially in the political arena, towards parliament and government:

- ▶ assuring a permanent information flow between the member organizations to enable them, to especially exchange and coordinate common positions on youth policy;
- ▶ the cooperation with youth organizations abroad and the international youth policy.