

**Development of International Youth Voluntary Service in the EU: A Comparison of
programme & policy development in Germany, Italy and France**

National Report Germany

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1.0. TRADITIONS AND POLICY CONTEXT

International Voluntary Service in Germany today is a wide range of **personal commitments and engagements for civil society**, short-, medium- and long-term voluntary services at national or international level, organised by a **broad spectrum of NGOs**, involving young volunteers from different countries, promoting peace, reconciliation, international understanding and co-operation, providing non-formal, intercultural learning experience in a large variety of fields, implemented under many **different conditions, terms and regulations**.

National schemes for long-term voluntary work evolved in the 1960s and 1990s. The **voluntary year for social service** and later on the **voluntary ecological year**, each of them based on an own legal framework, implemented by recognised non-governmental and voluntary service organisations. During the last ten years both schemes became a European dimension. Today volunteers can also do their service outside the EU.

European Voluntary Service, set up as a pilot programme in 1996, now part of the YOUTH programme (2000-2006) gave new opportunities for small local organisations to get involved in international voluntary services and promotes European mobility.

In recent years, voluntary service programmes and their **potential** in view of **promoting the values of civil society** gained public interest by, at the same time, meeting with growing interest of young people. Voluntary services have experienced constantly rising demand. The growing interest of young people is confirmed by several surveys. Young people at the age of 14 to 24 form a particularly active group within society¹.

Volunteering, the active **participation of citizens is the heart of civil society and the basis of the third sector**, which is **governed by the 'subsidiarity principle'**. This principle forms **part of the core ideas of federalism** and describes the **relation between the third sector and the state**. This means that there is a progressive scale of authority and responsibility, which, at same time, is extending upwards from each individual to the family, the neighbourhood, district, town or village, right through to the state and central government.

The **'subsidiarity principle'** gives **priority to non-profit providers over public sector services** for core welfare and other important services², thus **encouraging a plurality of providers and cooperation between public and private organisations**, whereby acknowledging the **self-governance** of non-profit organisations while federal or state governments or local authorities **support them financially**.

An **ongoing intensive public dialogue** about more **attractive concepts of volunteering** and the **culture of civic involvement of citizens** started during the legitimacy crisis of welfare providers and the growth of new social movements in the 1980s, is taking place on different levels among the main actors on different levels: researchers, experts, practitioners, NGOs volunteers and politicians.

¹ Volunteering in Germany, Results of the 1999 Representative Survey on Volunteering and Civic Engagement, Study commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

² Eckhard Priller, Annette Zimmer, Helmut K. Anheier, Stefan Toepler, and Lester M. Salamon

Germany: Unification and Change in: Salamon, Lester et al (Eds.): Global Civil Society. Dimensions of the Nonprofit Sector, Baltimore: Center for Civil Society Studies.

The **ability of certain parts of the third sector**, mainly traditional non-profit organisations, **to attract volunteers decreased**. Traditional concepts of volunteering did not meet with personal interests and motivations of potential volunteers such as 'personal involvement', 'the need for political change,' and 'the desire to do something good,' or the intention to gain qualifications that may be useful on the labour market.³

New concepts were needed to attract the involvement of more citizens and especially the younger generations.

The German army has been **in a permanent process of change** since the **end of the East-West conflict**. **Public debates** on voluntary work became closely related to **future scenarios** in view of the possible **termination of compulsory military and civil service** and its **impact on the social sector in times when** changing economic parameters affect social politics. Up to now, about 1.9 million young men followed compulsory civil service⁴. Their human resource is of sustainable value to the social welfare sector.

One of these scenarios was a proposal from 1993 to introduce **a compulsory voluntary service year for young** peoples⁵. This **concept conflicted with the idea of volunteering** (a person's free will to spend time, effort and skills for the community and civil society) and triggered off a controversial debate in public media.

Due to recent developments of compulsory military and civil service, the two **national voluntary work schemes for young people opened up for recognised conscientious objectors** thus **mixing two different concepts**, i.e., the voluntary work concept and the compulsory service.

An increased offer for long-term voluntary service programmes has been considered desirable and was regarded as a priority by several national commissions and parliament in recent years. **Despite the considered desirable increase** and the growing interest of young people, however, only about 23.000 annual voluntary work placements are available. This capacity includes all national and international long-term voluntary work placements and relates to about 11 million young people between the ages of 15 to 27⁶. Due to the dominating compulsory civil service, the extension of voluntary service was of lower political priority in the past.

The **historical dimension of a new enlarged Europe** and increasing globalisation opens up new challenges for the development of international voluntary service. The societies of the old and new member states still have to come together more and more to develop a **common sense of European citizenship**. Encouraging direct involvement of European citizens in the integration process⁷ and **bridging the gap between young people and active citizenship** is a priority of the EU-Commission. Therefore, the **promotion of an increased transnational exchange of long-term volunteers** and the cooperation of voluntary organisations at European level is an **important contribution to strengthen civic sense stretching beyond national borders**. The new possibilities of the national voluntary years in Germany is a first step in this direction but still the **framework conditions of national voluntary youth schemes do not sufficiently support the extension of transnational voluntary services**.

³ Braun, Die Aktualität ehrenamtlicher Arbeit, 1990

⁴ Source: Bundesamt für den Zivildienst (Federal Office for the compulsory non-military service – civil service)

⁵ In 1993 chancellor Helmut Kohl called for a compulsory community service for society of young people

⁶ Source: Bundesamt für Statistik (Federal Statistical Office), 10, 2003

⁷ Source: EU-Commission, communication on "Citizenship in action", March 9, 2004, guidelines for future programmes

1.1. Live and work together to prevent future wars – A model for an alternative civil service

The **first modern international voluntary service movement** goes back to the eve of World War I and was inspired by religious, humanitarian, and civic-minded visions and values of the “International Peace Movement” at the beginning of the last century.

The ‘World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship through the Churches’⁸, the religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the interconfessional peace alliance ‘International Fellowships of Reconciliation’ (IFOR), and others had been part of that peace movement, which aimed at building friendship and co-operation between the nations, to diminish tensions between them and placed pacifism, as against conscription and militarism and promoted personal commitments to build mutual understanding between people and non-violence⁹.

The first concept of an international voluntary service originated on the battlefields of Verdun, France. From November 1920 to April 1921, Pierre Cérésolle, secretary of IFOR and founder of the first international voluntary service organisation ‘Service Civil International’ (SCI), organized a group of Austrian, English, French, German and Swiss volunteers, some of them former soldiers and thus ex-enemies, to rebuild the village of Enes, near Verdun, which had been destroyed in a battle with more than a million casualties.

No more war - this group of volunteers demonstrated that people from different nations could **live and work together to prevent future wars** and hoped it would **serve as a model for an alternative civil service** for conscientious objectors.

During that time, the ‘The Covenant of the League of Nations’¹⁰ came into force. War Resisters International was founded in 1921, opposing every form of war and organized violence.

1.1.1. National youth services in the after war society and in times of worldwide depression.

On the background of the abolishment of compulsory military service after World War I¹¹ and the problem of high unemployment during the 1920s and 1930s, public debate to develop voluntary labour services for young people was influenced by a bundle of many different interests and ideologies of many different stakeholders reflecting the political spectrum, like to replace military service, to mitigate the social and economic impact of high unemployment of young people but also, as a means of conservative, nationalist education ore more progressive education for a new social community and for a new beginning to develop citizenship in the context of the **Weimar Republic**.

Independent schemes national and international programmes were organised to work with young jobless people. Non-governmental institutions and youth organisations from different spectrums of society were implementing them. A liberal service scheme grew out

⁸ Founded at Konstanz, Germany, August 1 to 3, 1914

⁹ Source: IFOR, Conference at Bilthoven, Netherlands 1919

¹⁰ The ‘Covenant of the League of Nations’ was superseded by the United Nations Organisation in New York in 1946

¹¹ The Peace Treaty of Versailles, 28 June, 1919, Article 173: Universal compulsory military service shall be abolished in Germany,

of experimentation carried out in the 1920s by **Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy**¹² to counteract social tensions.¹³

Unemployment grew in 1930 and 1931. The Government established a **national 'Voluntary Labour Service'**¹⁴ for young unemployed people under 25, who volunteered for labour services for up to twenty weeks. Its initiation owed much to pressure from the political right, who saw a voluntary scheme as the first step to a compulsory scheme, which then would act as a substitute army.

The effort was to create jobs for unemployed youth as a result of the worldwide depression. The Republican camps aimed to educate participants to understand their role in and duties to society. The camps were open to all young people of good will and characterized by a generous nationalism. These youth services met with a positive response from across the political spectrum. The Republic considered them an important part of its educational system. The capacity of these services was more than 285,000 placements in November 1932.¹⁵

The Nazis took power in 1933 and established the **German National Labour Service** (Reichsarbeitsdienst, RAD) in July 1934. It was expanded and made compulsory in 1935. The 1935 law¹⁶ required all male Aryan Germans (17 and 25 years of age) to serve in the RAD for 6 months. The RAD was the official state and party labour service providing jobs for unemployed men, before being called for military service. The idea of voluntary service was distorted and alienated from its internationalist and humanitarian ideals during the Hitler regime.

By 1939 national youth work camps schemes of different sizes and with various functions existed in nearly thirty countries.¹⁷

1.1.2. First north-to-south long-term voluntary service

The ideas of Mahatma Gandhi to create civil peace services and his thoughts on conflict resolution services of multinational volunteer teams and peace corps ("Shanti Sena"¹⁸) influenced in the growing volunteer service movement in Germany.

After Gandhi's visit to Switzerland, international groups of volunteers, including German volunteers, **organised first international voluntary service activities in India**, while working with the poorest of the poor. They rebuild a village in Bihar after an earthquake in 1934.

This pioneer team can be regarded as the **start of the north-to-south long-term voluntary service** action. National development-aid oriented voluntary service

¹² He took refuge in the United States in 1933 and inspired the US Peace Corps. Planetary Service, by Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy, translated by Mark Huessy and Freya von Moltke. Argo Books, 1978.

¹³ Arthur Gilette, One million Volunteers – The story of voluntary youth services, 1968

¹⁴ Zweite Verordnung des Reichspräsidenten zur Sicherung von Wirtschaft und Finanzen v. 5.6.1931 - RGBl. I § 139a, Verordnung über die Förderung des freiwilligen Arbeitsdienstes v. 23.7.1931 - RGBl. I S. 398,

¹⁵ Johannes Steffen, Notstandsarbeit, Fürsorgearbeit, Pflichtarbeit, Freiwilliger Arbeitsdienst, Die öffentlich geförderte bzw. erzwungene Beschäftigung in der Weimarer Republik - 1918/19 bis 1932/33, Bremen, 1994

¹⁶ Reichsarbeitsdienstgesetz, Juni 26, 1935. (Law on German National Labour Service)

¹⁷ Arthur Gilette, One million Volunteers – The story of voluntary youth services

¹⁸ Gandhi-inspired so called 'peace army', the Shanti Sena, involved in conflict resolution on a grass-roots level, using peace-building techniques that have inspired international peacekeeping groups.

organisations like the “German Development Service“, the British “Volunteer Service Overseas” or the UN Volunteers programme evolved later on.

The idea of an international voluntary service spread around Europe and was integrated into new educational concepts.

German volunteers participated in various medium and long-term international volunteer service actions to support people threatened by natural violation through **disaster relief** work in Switzerland, Liechtenstein and France.

1.1.3. International friendship - A new fundamental experience for young people

After World War II, in the late 1940s and throughout the 1950s, young German volunteers participated in international teams to help with the **reconstruction of the country**, they cleared rubble from bombed-out hospitals and houses, worked in refugee camps, built houses for refugees, worked with children and repaired meeting places for young people, etc.

International and cross-border friendships, different opinions and **new outlines of civil society and democracy** became a **new fundamental experience** for most of the young German volunteers after a long time of national socialist influence, war and isolation.

Once again, the discussions on volunteer service as an alternative to military services triggered off. British and Swiss volunteers also inspired this.

British, French, Swiss and US voluntary service organisations¹⁹ helped to organise the first volunteer activities in Germany after the war. Branches of these organisations are still active today and several new national volunteer organisations evolved.

In 1948, the students' councils from Hannover organised their first **youth voluntary service** in Germany, which leads to the foundation of the Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste (IJGD).

In 1952, young German volunteers several organisations new voluntary organisations started an initiative aimed at taking care of war graves in France, in order to strengthen the exchange and **reconciliation activities as part of the peace process during the post war period**.

In 1958, young volunteers of Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste (ASF) started peace service projects in countries suffering during the Nazi time in World War II as a **"sign" of atonement and reconciliation**.

1.1.4. International – east-west and north-south volunteer exchange programmes

The first international volunteer service exchange programmes throughout Europe were organised and a **system of relationships** among volunteer organisations around the world was established. International conferences and meetings were held to plan

¹⁹ International Voluntary Service for Peace, American Field Service, Quakers, Bretheren, SCI and others

common activities. The '**Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Services**' became an **important international platform and focal point**, supported by the UNESCO Youth Division.

At the beginning of the Cold War, **first contacts with the youth and volunteer organisations in Eastern Europe were established**. Exchange programmes with the Soviet Union, Hungary, the GDR and Poland were organised in the late 1950s.

Relationships with the volunteer movements throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America were established and strengthened.

1.2. 'Give one year' - The Voluntary Year of Social Service

Economic progress was impossible without progress in the social field. The reconstruction of social and health care systems was lacking nursery and other qualified staff. Voluntary service was regarded as a chance to mobilise potential resources within society for social support, solidarity and to motivate for future employment in health care.

During the 1950s, many young women followed²⁰ the national appeals of the two largest church-related welfare associations Caritas and Diakonie and enrolled for voluntary service in social and health care institutions, mainly hospitals, and gained useful work experiences in social welfare work during their time of service.

Social work in form of taking care of old people and disabled persons was a strong focus of voluntary service in the 1960s.

The "**Social Voluntary Year**" developed into a well-recognised national programme within the social welfare system. Since 1964, the '**law on the promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service**' is governing its activity, the acknowledgement of organisations, the duration (12 months, now 18), the age limits (18 to 36, now 15 to 27), the pedagogical support, the allowances, as well as social and health insurance coverage of the volunteers.

1.3. Alternative services to military service

During the time of rearmament, NATO integration and re-introduction of a military service, governmental resistance against **alternative services to military** service was strong.

Some of the voluntary service organisations supported the national **campaigns for alternative services**. It was only in April 1961, when they first conscientious objectors started their service.

According to the Constitution and the 'Act on Conscientious Objection', young men, recognized as conscientious objectors, have to do a compulsory civil service. This obligatory service is governed by the Act on Compulsory Non-Military National Service²¹, and is controlled and monitored by the state

²⁰ Gesetz zur Förderung eines freiwilligen sozialen Jahres, (Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service), 1964

²¹ Gesetz über den Zivildienst der Kriegsdienstverweigerer (Act on Compulsory Non-Military Service), January 13, 1960, (BGBl I S. 10)

Recognised conscientious objectors can do an ‘alternative service abroad’ instead of the national compulsory civil service in Germany.²²

According to the latest changes of the law governing the voluntary years, **recognised conscientious objectors** can do **voluntary service within the framework of the voluntary years** either in Germany or abroad.²³

1.4. Voluntary service at the heart of an expanding civil society

During the 1970 and 1980, international voluntary service organisations established a co-operation with the **growing number of citizen action groups** that emerged in the context of the ‘**new social movements**’ which **introduced new political values and issues into the public debate on civil society development**.

These common activities, mainly short but also medium and long-term voluntary services involving international volunteers, ranged from alternative education of children, young people and adults, to the promotion of alternative energy and anti-nuclear activities, from new types of social work, self-help of vulnerables and renovation of socio-cultural centers to environmental protection and nature conservation, from common activities with the new German Peace and One-World movement and work immigrants to voluntary work in former concentration camps to learn from German history (just to mention a few of them).

International voluntary service action during that time got a **new impulses** by discovering **many new fields of activities and innovative methods** and became very **popular particularly among young activists** at the age of 16 to 25.

1.5. Extension of the voluntary year and the European dimension

A pilot long-term voluntary service project started in 1987 supported by the regional government of Lower Saxony. Young people who were interested in and committed to protect the environment participated in this project, which later on evolved into a national programme called the “**Ecological Voluntary Year**”. Due to its educational character the Federal States got involved since education is in their responsibility.

A federal Law on the Promotion of the ‘Voluntary Year of Ecological Service’ from September 1993 is governing this national long-term voluntary service activity and established conditions similar to the ‘Voluntary Year in Social Service’.

A few years later NGOs and ecological institutions in all regions offered placements within the framework of the ‘Voluntary Year of Ecological Service’.

²² The alternative service abroad was based on an administrative provision ruling compulsory civil service since 1969 and was incorporated into the Act on Compulsory Non-Military Service in 1986

²³ Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service, 1964, last amended on May 27, 2002, Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Ecological Service, 1993, last amended, May 27, 2002, Gesetz über den Zivildienst der Kriegsdienstverweigerer –Zivildienstgesetz (Act on Compulsory Non-Military National Service), version September 28, 1994, last amended by Article 67 of the Third Law to amend administrative provisions, August 21, 2002.

The duration of both voluntary years was extended beyond the obligatory twelve months to up to max. 18 months (inside Germany). The duration for the voluntary service abroad is limited to a period of 12 months, due to limited applicability of regulations under the German social insurance law in other countries.

Both voluntary service years became a European perspective in 1993. According to the latest changes of this law, volunteers can do their service outside the EU.

At the 1989 Loccum conference in Germany a group of national and international voluntary service organisations discussed the barriers and needs for a **common, relevant legal status for volunteers at national and international level** and initiated a **European process to promote longer-term voluntary services**, which was followed up by the 'Steering Group of Voluntary Organisations' now AVSO and resulted into a process to create the 'European Volunteer Service'. This process was supported by the European Conference of Youth Ministers²⁴ and the European Commission.

The European Volunteer Service (EVS) was established in 1996 by the European Commission under the 'Youth' programme. It incorporated many experiences and standards of the European voluntary service organisations and includes short medium and long-term activities in and outside Europe.

1.6. Long-term volunteering in Development Aid and Emergency Aid

German volunteers serve as peace workers or as development workers for a minimum of two years in a variety of projects in many development countries to help build solidarity, to provide humanitarian aid or are active in **fields of crisis prevention** and **non-violent conflict resolution**, in countries and regions of conflict.

These types of international voluntary services are organized by a group of voluntary overseas services and perform their independent programmes based on own funding and **regulated by the "Law on Development Workers"**²⁵. The **"German Development Services"** was established in 1963.

The role of the national volunteer service organisation in community mobilisation proved to be an important tool to strengthen civil society in the development processes. International voluntary service and their partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America thus became an instrument for development aid.

Specialised organisations were established in the **field of emergency aid** with a **strong voluntary element** on local and national level, regulated by an **own legal framework**. This is an acknowledged field to do alternative civil service.

²⁴ On the Vienna Conference in April 1993, the European Ministers responsible for youth felt that there was an imperative need to deal with long-term voluntary service, recommending "the promotion of a voluntary service for young people, especially long-term at national and European level, and the recognition of a relevant legal status covering the young volunteers' period of engagement".

²⁵ Entwicklungshelfer-Gesetz (Development Workers Act), June 18, 1969 (BGBl. I S. 549)

1.7. Voluntary Service and the Third Sector - The ability to self organise citizens

Germany has a long and rich history of self-administration, self-governance and non-profit activities over the last 200 years. Germany's large third sector provides **services throughout the social life cycle** and is strongly supported by the government and governed by an extensive partnership framework between the state and the third sector.

The partnership between the third sector and the state is based on the **'subsidiarity principle'** giving preference to non-profit providers over public sector services for core welfare and other important services, thus encouraging plurality of providers and cooperation between public and private organisations.

Free Welfare Associations²⁶, re-established after World War II along ideological and religious lines of the beginning 20th century, play an important role for the German Welfare system. Working both with full-time workers and volunteers the Welfare Associations provide a broad range of services including e.g. hospitals, social counselling, or assistance for elderly people. This role is important for the well being of citizens, for social cohesion and integration of all people within society based on overall social respect.

This **'subsidiarity principle'** acknowledges the **self-governance of non-profit organisations** while the government supports them financially at the same time.

It protects individual rights and the autonomy of smaller units in society and encourages the solidarity among society. At the same time this also presupposes the government's obligation to provide help if smaller institutions are unable to solve problems on their own. Governmental programmes are limited to those areas where the welfare agencies are not active.²⁷

The **active involvement of the vulnerables has become another important element of the subsidiarity principle.** In addition to the 'non-statutory welfare services group', the government, the regions and the municipalities also support smaller and less well-established self-help organisations, in which the vulnerables are highly involved.

New challenges, economic constrains, changes in social policies, market orientation and the debate about the welfare state and participation of citizens have stimulated a strong tendency towards welfare pluralism in favour of a shift from the welfare state to a welfare society.²⁸ The commitment of citizens, the **participation of individuals or civic movements represent the society's social capital.** Civic participation, the concern for it, the obligation and responsibility are the centre of civil society. Non-governmental organisations and, institutions and self-help groups are important actors in civil society. They give people the opportunity to assume their civil responsibility and to make a contribution for society as a whole.

²⁶ The Bundearbeitsgemeinschaft der Freien Wohlfahrtspflege (The federal working group of non-statutory welfare services) unites the six main welfare associations, Arbeiterwohlfahrt (Workers' Welfare Association), Caritas (German Caritas Federation), Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross), Diakonie (Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany), Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland (the Central Welfare Office of the Jews in Germany) and the Paritätische Wohlfahrtsverband (Non-partisan Welfare Association).

²⁷ According to section 10 of the of the Federal Social Assistance Act public social assistance agencies are required to cooperate with the welfare agencies, while respecting their independence regarding their objectives and implementation. Section 93 only allows governmental agencies to act if private initiatives are insufficient.

²⁸ Evers and Olk, Wohlfahrtspluralismus. Vom Wohlfahrtsstaat zur Wohlfahrtsgesellschaft, 1996

On the background of rising unemployment during the last decades, the third sector also gained public interest because of its potential to provide work possibilities, opportunities for training and on-the-job experiences, to improve the social integration particularly for the group of people who are facing certain stages of the life-cycle as for instance the transition from school to employment or the transition from fulltime employment to retirement.

Welfare Associations faced a deep crisis of legitimacy, losing their integrative role in the early 1980s. New social movements, self-help groups, local initiatives and ecological movements, which evolved during the 1970s, became important stakeholders of civil society and an integral part of the welfare mix at the local level. The changing relationship between the modern state and its tax-paying citizens stimulated a broad and continuing debate about citizen involvement and civic culture.

The key role of the third sector is its ability to self organise citizens to handle their individual needs and common interests, to open pathways and fields for active citizen participation, involving the main the stakeholders, to work out common grounds to mobilise resources and build capacities to solve problems.

In addition the **third sector is an important basis for debate and struggle for human, social and cultural values. Common values and commitment of citizens are essential** while expanding and strengthening the role of civil society.

These competences make the third sector attractive for the needs of modern and changing societies.

1.7.1. Voluntary service - the feeling of being a part of society and of active citizenship

Voluntary service is an essential part of the third sector offering **enriching opportunities for new experiences** by gaining social and other skills, which will enhance employability and, moreover, **the feeling of being a part of society and of active citizenship** among young people.

Voluntary service is an individual act of commitment that contributes to the social or to the progress of a changing civil society. It provides and expresses values. There are also benefits for the volunteer. Voluntary work is not a one-way relationship. It is an exchange of values.

International voluntary service offers new **intercultural learning experiences** within the framework of a growing Europe and enhancing international relations is fundamental to build **open and tolerant societies**, solidarity, mutual assistance and understanding among people. Voluntary service is a **social learning process** of great importance for young people's personal development and the acquisition of experience. It has an important **impact on the professional careers**.

Due to a **new orientation for values, the search for alternatives** to existing political, economic, social, and cultural institutions and life-styles the engagement of young people in voluntary service projects has increased. Voluntary services with open structures and an interesting field of activities, like cultural and environmental areas have profited most.

Voluntary service focuses on **personal commitments and active participation**. For many young people voluntary service provides a vital means to express their **active concern and responsibility towards others and towards society** and creates a **lively relationship between citizens and society**, brings focus from the grassroots, fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Voluntary service organisations play an **important role as intermediaries** in the exchange of information and opinion between society, government and the individual.

1.7.2. New culture of civil society instead of compulsory civil service

On the 20th of May 2003, the Minister for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Ms. Renate Schmidt, constituted a commission on **“Impulses for the civil society – future perspectives for volunteer and civilian services in Germany”**.

The commission regarded itself as a workshop to strengthen those values, which form the basis of our society and to foster, stabilise and further develop mutual responsibility towards others and towards the society as a whole. All major stakeholder in the area of voluntary and compulsory civil service participated in the work of the commission.

The report of the commission “Impulses for the civil society” were submitted to the Federal Minister for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Renate Schmidt who supported the recommendations, regardless of the decision on compulsory military service which the political coalition parties will make until 2006. In case of a decision in favour of an abolition of the military service, there will be a **transitional period** until at least 2010 due to legal and practical reasons.²⁹

A general obligatory service is rejected by the Commission as being against the constitution and international law.

According to the commission, a possible termination of the compulsory military service would be a **chance to create a new culture of self-evident volunteerism**. This development has to be supported by the state. Likewise, non-monetary, monetary and money-like types of new voluntary services have to be considered.

The report stated a high willingness of German citizens to become voluntarily active in civic affairs and to assume common responsibility in public affairs, which is adding up to those tasks, which are already looked after by the government.

In view of the future demographic developments and the possible abolishment of compulsory civil service the commission discussed how the allocated 100.000 compulsory civil service placements could be compensated by different other services. One of the suggestions of the commission was to introduce an extension of voluntary services for all generations, men and women alike.³⁰

²⁹ Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth), Internet editing, Press Information No. 121, January 15, 2004

³⁰ Ibid

1.8. Abolishing compulsory military service - A European trend

On its way to create a joint European military force, a European military cooperation and a common intervention force, as this was already decided at the EU summit in Helsinki in 1999, not all the European countries would need their own army.

Compulsory military service existed in 10 of the 16 NATO states. France and Spain transformed its armies into professional ones. Italy suspended compulsory military service and The Netherlands completely abolished it. From the NATO point of view Germany's compulsory military service tend to be an obstacle for a European military force and for the modernisation of the German army.

The end of the German compulsory military service is approaching. The debate on the necessity of such a step is already taking place: the Green Party demands a professional army, while the majority of the Social Democrats right now speaks in favour of the present system. The leader of the Liberal Party calls for abolishing the compulsory military service.

The new concept of the defence Minister is to reorganise the task of the army and to reduce its size from its current strength of 285,000 troops to 250,000 by 2010. But is, however, is still committed to maintain compulsory military service and civilian service for conscientious objectors. Of the current numbers, some 81.300³¹ are on nine month compulsory national military service. The defence Ministry wants to bring those numbers down to 55,000 by calling up only a portion of those in the annual draft. This will influence the number of conscientious objectors in compulsory civil service too.

Additional funds are needed for a comprehensive modernization of the army. At the same time, these funds are also needed for a sustainable modernisation of the social and health care system and the social security system. Both debates are continuing and influencing the debate on the future of voluntary and civil service, even though these are different problems, which need an own solution.

1.9. General compulsory service and voluntary service

When discussing the abolition of compulsory military service, the introduction of a general civil service is popping up time and again. This opposing concept is conflicting with the idea of volunteering

According to those speaking in favour of a general service, everybody should choose whether they like to do their service in the social, ecological or disaster relief area.

The agency for the 'Right and the Protection of Conscientious Objection', however, strongly opposes those measures as being unrealistic. For about 850.000 young people of the same age group in Germany 500.000 young people will have to be placed in newly created vacancies which will, according to the Ministry of Youth, cost about 6 billion Euro in addition to the costs for compulsory civil and military service.

³¹ Source: Bundesamt für den Zivildienst (Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service - Civil Service), monthly figures of conscientious objectors in compulsory civil service, 81.287 placements, 15, May 2004

Regardless of those practical considerations, the following regulations apply for the Federal Republic of Germany: Article 12 of the German Constitution and international regulations and agreements do not allow a general compulsory service, according to Art. 4 and 23 of the General Declaration of Human Rights nobody should be forced to do a special job with the exception of a general public civil service like the fire brigades. The following rules and regulations also apply: the international agreement on civil and political rights, the international agreement on economic, social and cultural rights, the agreement on compulsory and mandatory work, the agreement on the abolition of compulsory work, the convention of the European Council on the protection of human rights and basic freedom, the European Social Charter.

Another discussion refers to the **replacement of compulsory civil service of conscientious objectors by new ordinary jobs** whereby two regular jobs would be replacing three compulsory civil service placements. Those figures³² are becoming especially important when they are compared with the unemployment figures published by the Federal Labour Agency.

In view of it present (financial) limitations it cannot be assumed that the voluntary services will, to a full extent, compensate the abolishment of civil service within the short run. This, however, does not disregard any considerations or initiatives with regard to how voluntary services can be shaped so that in case an abolishment of compulsory military service new possibilities for voluntary service can be opened up including an extended voluntary services abroad.

³² Peter Tobiassen, Eine Bestandsaufnahme - Zivildienst aus volkswirtschaftlicher Sicht (Stocktaking compulsory civil service from an economic perspective), Sicherheit und Frieden, Heft 4, 2001, Nomos-Verlag

2.0. THE CURRENT SYSTEM

2.1. Conscientious objectors programmes

These activities fall under the following major headings:

- 1) Compulsory Civil Service, an obligatory alternative civil service for those who object to compulsory military service;
- 2) Alternative services to compulsory civil service in development aid, which is carried out abroad by certain organisations, which are recognized by public authorities.
- 3) Alternative services to compulsory civil service abroad.
- 4) Alternative services to compulsory civil service within the framework of national programmes of the voluntary year in social and ecological services and its extension in the fields of sports, culture, etc.
- 5) Civil Defence with the purpose to protect the civilian population in case of war and provides disaster relief.

The Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth among others is in charge of children and youth policy, of compulsory civil service, citizens' involvement, volunteering and voluntary services.

Each of these services is implemented under different legal frameworks by non-governmental organisations.

2.1.1. Compulsory civil service

Based on the German Constitution³³ Article 4, paragraph 3, no one may be forced against his conscience to do military service including armed conflict.

According to the Constitution and the Act on Compulsory non military National Service, young men, officially recognized as conscientious objectors, have to do a compulsory civil service and should perform tasks promoting the common good. At present, civil service lasts for 10 months.³⁴

The general rules of the basic military service also apply to civil service like payment, social security, benefits, etc.

Today 81.300 young are in service. Up to now, 1.8 million young men followed the compulsory civil service³⁵. Their placement is supported by the government with an annual amount of 843 million Euros. The reimbursement of costs civil service placements has been reduced to 50% in March 2003 but will increase to up 70 % in 2004, while the number of placements will be reduced.

³³ Das Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland (The German Constitution), May 23, 1949 (BGBl. I S. 1)

³⁴ Gesetz über den Zivildienst der Kriegsdienstverweigerer –Zivildienstgesetz (Act on Compulsory Non-Military National Service), version September 28, 1994, last amended by Article 67 of the Third Law to amend administrative provisions, August 21, 2002, (BGBl. I S. 3322, 3341) The parliament has decided to reduce the length of service to 9 month. This decision will come into force in October 2004.

³⁵ Source: Bundesamt für den Zivildienst (Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service - Civil Service)

More civil service placements than recognized conscientious objectors are provided to ensure that all of them can do their service.

Most of the conscientious objectors do their compulsory civil service mainly in welfare and health care services, 20.000 of them serve in hospitals. Their human resource is of sustainable value to the social welfare sector.

About 4% of conscientious objectors do their compulsory civil service in the field of individual care for seriously disabled persons.³⁶

The 'Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service - Civilian Service' (BAZ) is a federal authority under the supervision of the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BM FSFJ). The office is responsible for principle matters, the implementation of instructions and the laws governing this field, recruitment policies and the social conditions related to conscientious objection and civil services. It runs about 18 civil service schools, which provide training courses for young conscientious objectors in civil services.

2.1.2. Alternative services to compulsory civil service

Compulsory civil service in general can, due to reasons going back to international law, only be done within the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The obligation to do a compulsory civil service may be lifted in case of a commitment for and participation in voluntary work programmes in the area of civil defence, disaster control and emergency aid or in case of joining the development aid service, within the framework of a voluntary social year or voluntary ecological year or in case of an alternative service abroad. This, however, does not apply to the unlimited civil service in case of armed defence.

2.1.3. Civil Defence –disaster control and emergency aid

According to § 14 of the Compulsory Non-Military National Service Act young man who volunteers to serve for 6 years in civil defence is exempted from military service.

An acknowledged conscientious objector under the age of 25 can, subject to the agreement of the authority in charge, who commits himself to do part-time voluntary service for at least six years in the field of civil defence, disaster control and emergency aid is exempted from military service.

All civil defence organizations are civilian and there is a strict separation from military matters. Governmental and non-governmental organizations are authorized by the Government or government agencies to carry out civil protection tasks side by side on an equal conditions. Voluntary service in the areas of civil defence or disaster relief service can be done with the following institutions:

³⁶ Bundesamt für den Zivildienst (Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service - Civil Service), Special Information 6/2003

- public institutions like municipality fire brigades and the Technical Aid Service (Technisches Hilfswerk, THW) a federal government unit responsible for salvage and rescue tasks and technical support in Germany and abroad
- institutions for self-protection
- air protection services
- private institutions like the German Red Cross and the Malteser Aid Service (Malteser Hilfsdienst), the Workers Samaritan Federation (Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund) or the Johanniter Accident Aid (Johanniter Unfallhilfe).

Annually about 10,000 men are performing Civil Defence as alternative service.

2.1.4. Alternative service in development aid

According to § 14 a of the Compulsory Non-Military National Service Act, acknowledged conscientious objectors until the age of 30 are exempted from military service and not obliged to do compulsory national civil service if they commit themselves to do a civil service for at least two years and complete the contract with a voluntary overseas service recognised under § 2 of the “**Law on Development Workers**”³⁷ operating in the field of development aid and the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation agrees to that.

The Service in Development Aid may be performed either with the German Development Service (DED) or with one of the recognised non-governmental volunteer overseas associations.

2.1.5. Alternative service abroad

Since 1969 recognised conscientious objectors can do an ‘alternative service abroad’ instead of the compulsory civil service in Germany if they are accepted by a recognised NGO who has the permission to organise alternative long-term services abroad.

The ‘alternative service abroad’ (§14 b Compulsory Non-Military National Service Act – alternative service) is not a compulsory civil service.

The alternative service abroad has to promote peaceful understanding of peoples, practical social aspects have to prevail and it should be done without receiving any payment.

Projects of the alternative service abroad can range from social work with children, elderly people, less advantaged people, to youth in general, social work within the community, hospitals, sports, educational centres or cultural institutions.

The rules and conditions of national civil service or of basic military service with regard to social security, payment and allowances etc. do not apply to this alternative civil service abroad. Funding has to be arranged by the volunteer himself and the sending/host organisations.

The ‘alternative service abroad’, which is at present 11 months, has to be started with before attaining the age of 26. If, however, the conscientious objector has already been

³⁷ Entwicklungshelfer-Gesetz (Law on Development Workers), June 18, 1969 (BGBl. I S. 549)

drafted for compulsory civil service it is not possible to start with the 'alternative service abroad'.

The service will be done based on a contract which is reached by a mutual and free agreement between the conscientious objector and the acknowledged non-governmental organisation based on civil law. In general, the institution will take care of travel expenses, food and lodging – often in cooperation with its partner organizations abroad.

According to § 14 b of the Compulsory Non-Military National Service Act, the institution is obliged to insure the volunteer for the duration of his "alternative service abroad", as follows since this service, due to the fact that it is not paid, is not covered by the national social security plan:

- against accidents in Germany and abroad (minimum coverage of about 51,000 EUR in case of becoming disabled or 15,000 in case of death,
- health and nursing insurance.

According to the second law on family benefits, which entered into force on 1.1.2002, child allowance will be paid when doing the 'alternative service abroad'. The 'alternative service abroad' will be considered for the allocation of places in universities.

The institution and the Federal Office for Civil Service hand out certificates after termination of the service as a proof for the civil servants that they completed an "alternative service abroad".

If conscientious objectors, before attaining the age of 28, prove that they have completed the minimum required time for an alternative service, the obligation to do civil services will be lifted.

2.1.6. Recognised conscientious objectors in the voluntary years of social and ecological services

According to the latest changes of the law governing the voluntary years, **recognised conscientious objectors** who commit to the voluntary year of social or ecological service can follow **voluntary service within the framework of the voluntary years either** in Germany, within the EU or outside the EU for 12 month.

Voluntary service, based on § 14c of the Compulsory Non-Military National Service Act is considered to be a compulsory service. Conscientious objectors who commit to the voluntary year of social or ecological services upon recognition of their exempt status will no longer be required to enter into the compulsory civilian service programme.

The service has to start, at the latest, one year after commitment and before being 25 years of age (§14 c Compulsory Non-military National Service Act – alternative to military service)³⁸.

³⁸ Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service, 1964, last amended on May 27, 2002, Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Ecological Service, 1993, last amended, May 27, 2002, Gesetz über den Zivildienst der Kriegsdienstverweigerer –Zivildienstgesetz Zivildienstgesetz (Act on Compulsory Non-Military National Service), version September 28, 1994, last amended by Article 67 of the Third Law to amend administrative provisions, August 21, 2002, (BGBl. I S. 3322, 3341)

It should be a full-day assistant occupation by working with full capacity for a period of at least twelve months, including pedagogical assistance with a duration of 25 days and 24 days of leave (full day occupation). Commitment of service should be done with an approved institution.

The Federal office for Compulsory Non-military - Civil Service is not in charge of voluntary services within the framework of the Voluntary Social Year or the Voluntary Ecological Year.

Even though the overall budget for conscientious objectors who can do their service within in context of a voluntary year is limited, their number is growing³⁹. It is estimated that at the moment about 600 recognised conscientious objectors do a voluntary year abroad. Their financial conditions for serving under the Compulsory Non-military National Service Act – alternative to military service are much better than for non conscientious objectors volunteering under the law governing the voluntary years, generally women, or for volunteers doing an alternative service abroad based on § 14 b.

³⁹ The Bundesamt für den Zivildienst (The Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service – Civil Service) has allocated an amount of 15,5, Million € for 3000 placements in 2004

2.2. Voluntary service years – (government programmes)

At national level, the **Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth** implements its children and youth policy by taking overall responsibility of special federal laws, looking after the interest of children and young people vis-à-vis various policy areas, giving financial support to federal and central institutions and programmes and provides stimulus through model projects for the development of specialised tasks and policies.

The international and national youth assistance department supports the activities of youth voluntary organisations by means of a Children and Youth Plan.⁴⁰

The federal 'Children and Youth Service Act'⁴¹ is the legal foundation of the children and youth policy carried out by the Federation, federal states, local authorities, youth and also voluntary organisations.

The subdivision family, welfare and citizen involvement is responsible for programmes to improve participation of citizens in society, voluntary service programmes and voluntary service laws. A project group within the ministry is in charge of the national commission 'impulses for the civil society – future perspectives for volunteer and civil services in Germany', which was founded only recently.

2.2.1. Voluntary year of social and ecological service

Both, the 'Voluntary Year of Social Service' and the 'Voluntary Year of Ecological Service' are targeting at young people between school and professional (higher) education.

The voluntary years bear a **strong educational character**. The educational experiences of the volunteers are supported by different training activities.

Voluntary work within both programmes is an important field of learning, of orientation and training after school. Volunteers learn to assume responsibility for their own development, for others and for the society. The demand for volunteer services has been steadily increasing over the last 10 years.

In 1993, about 7.700 young people took part in both voluntary years. In 2002, about 15.600 young people volunteered in both programmes.

Both voluntary years are well-recognised long-term voluntary service programmes; an own federal law governs each of them.

With the financial support from the federal government the opportunities for voluntary years of social or ecological service have been constantly expanded.⁴²

⁴⁰ Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes, Richtlinien (Children and Youth Plan of the federation, Guidelines), January 30, 2003 and Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz KJHG (Children and Youth Service Act), June 26, 1990 and its amendments.

⁴¹ Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz (Children and Youth Service Act), June 26, 1990 and its amendments.

⁴² Evaluation of statistics from 1996 to 2002, Federal Working Group of the Voluntary Year of Social Service, January 18, 2003. See also chapter 4.1.

In addition, the latest change in legislation by the Federal Government on May 27th, 2002, has also increased the opportunities for young people to take part in both programmes.

Another new feature is that voluntary service is no longer tied to a minimum age (previously 17) but can be completed directly after acquiring obligatory school-leaving qualifications at the age of 15 or 16 (maximum age: 27). Those under the age of 18 are subject to the 'Protection of Young Persons at Work Act'⁴³.

Recognised conscientious objectors can complete a twelve-month period of social voluntary service or an ecological voluntary service with a recognised organisation instead of compulsory civil service.

The scope of opportunities of voluntary social service has increased through volunteering in new fields, like sports and culture and the preservation of monuments.

Since 1993 young people can do a voluntary year of social or ecological service abroad in another European country. Since 2002, the amended law allows the voluntary service to be carried out worldwide. No further regulations, taking into account the different situation of volunteers abroad, have been worked out yet.

Since the start of both long-term voluntary services more than 300.000 young people have participated in the volunteer programmes.⁴⁴

Volunteers do their service without any intention of profit making. The voluntary year involves full day voluntary work and a 38,5 hour voluntary working week, supporting work in non-profit-making institutions, in the areas of social welfare, child and youth services, youth education, and health care. Volunteers are given 24 days vacation during their year of service.

They enjoy training and pedagogical support during 25 days per year partially supported by the Federal Children and Youth Plan according to Voluntary Year of Social Service regulation.

Pedagogical support for the voluntary year abroad, like preparation, follow-up, language courses, has to be done in Germany. Additional seminars in the host countries may be attended.

There are unified social security regulations based on the German social security regulations for both voluntary years in Germany and abroad.

Concerning social insurance the volunteers are treated the same way as workers and vocational trainees and are therefore covered by the German social security system. The host organisation/project has to cover the costs for social insurance, like health and accident, rehabilitation, pension schemes, unemployment insurance, as well as personal liability insurance. For any damage that occurred during the performance of their service, the volunteers will only be liable to the same extent as workers.

The volunteers receive accommodation, food, working clothes and a pocket money of about 153 € per month.⁴⁵

⁴³ Gesetz zum Schutz der arbeitenden Jugend (Protection of Young People at Work Act), April 12, 1976 and its amendments.

⁴⁴ Source: Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth)

⁴⁵ Legislation considers a sum of pocket money appropriate if it does not exceed 6 per cent of the contribution assessment limit valid for the Workers' and Employees' Pension Insurance (§ 159 of the Sixth Book of the Social Code). The contribution limits were fixed in 2002 at a monthly rate of 4,500 (in the western part of Germany) and 3,750

If housing, food and working clothes are not available or provided at the assignment location, an appropriate monthly allowance, not exceeding 6 % of the contribution assessment ceiling set for the pension insurance of workers and employees of 153 € for board and lodging can be reimbursed.⁴⁶

Volunteers are awarded the same price reduction on public transport as school children, students and apprentices. Reimbursement for local travel costs can be up to 77 €.

Payment of child benefits and child allowances will be continued during the period of voluntary services. Volunteers will enjoy the same legal status as young people who have entered vocational training.

The Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service - Civil Service (Bundesamt für den Zivildienst BAZ) will reimburse the costs for conscientious objectors during their voluntary years.

Social security costs are reimbursed for conscientious objectors but not for volunteers. The organisations providing the voluntary years are responsible for pocket money, lodging and subsistence allowances.

The law is promoting recognition of experiences and qualifications gained during the time of service for the future career planning of young people. Certificates are issued by the host organisation indicating the nature and scope of service as well as the volunteer's performance.

Several federal states in Germany provide additional funds for pedagogical support within the framework of the ecological year, organised by NGOs. The voluntary social and ecological years programmes are managed by experienced voluntary service organizations, welfare associations, youth or environmental organizations or counseling services located throughout the country.

The members of the 'Federal Working Group of non statutory Welfare Organizations' and religious communities, which have a status of a body corporate under public law and territorial authorities, are authorized to organize both voluntary years.⁴⁷ A federal state authority can authorize additional non-governmental organizations, exclusively and directly serving non-for-profit missions, as specified in section 51 to 68 of the fiscal code.⁴⁸

The organizations responsible for voluntary services abroad should be admitted, as a rule, by a competent federal state authority.

The '**Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr**' is a **joint umbrella** of the federal and central non-governmental bodies co-operating with the Ministry to organize the social voluntary year.

This umbrella is safeguarding their members' interest vis-à-vis the Ministry, is coordinating and further developing the content and format of the voluntary social year

(in the eastern part of Germany). The amount paid to the volunteers by the host organization/project should not exceed this amount and is generally lower.

⁴⁶ Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service, 1964, last amended on May 27, 2002.

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ German Fiscal Code, §51 to 68, Abgabenordnung (AO), March 16, 1976 (BGBl. I S. 613, ber. 1977 I S. 269) and its amendments from June 26, 2001 (BGBl. I 2001 S. 1310).

and is responsible for the counseling of the members with regard to funding and public funding regulations.

The members are: Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, Arbeiterwohlfahrt, Internationaler Bund für Sozialarbeit, Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband, Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend, Evangelische Freiwilligendienste für junge Menschen, Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr – Diankonisches Jahr, Jugendaufbauwerk Berlin-Zentrale für Freiwillige soziale Dienste, Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung, Deutsche Sportjugend and other central NGO bodies who receive grants from the federal children and youth plan.

The **Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr**, a joint umbrella, represents the interests of 39 recognised organisations and promotes the voluntary ecological year. The group provides exchanges of experiences and counseling and training services for actors involved in the voluntary ecological year.

2.3. New opportunities - Voluntary year of social service in other fields - Culture, sports and preservation of monuments

New initiatives were started by the German Sports Youth (Deutsche Sportjugend), the Federal Association of Cultural Youth Education (Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung) and the International Youth Voluntary Services (Internationale Jugendgemeinschaftsdienste) to promote a voluntary service year in the **fields of sports, culture and cultural heritage**.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth supported the pilot experiences with these new programmes.

According to the new regulations included into the Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service voluntary services rendered by young people shall also be possible in other areas, e.g. culture, sports and preservation of monuments. ⁴⁹

2.3.1. Voluntary social year in the cultural sector (Voluntary Cultural Year)

In Sept 2001, the Bundesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung started a three-year pilot project 'Into Life - Voluntary Social Year in the cultural sector' in five Federal States. 125 local projects took part to promote voluntary services in the cultural sector, youth clubs, museums and theatres, cultural projects with handicapped young people, in high poverty areas, arts schools, rock-music initiatives or socio-cultural centres.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth co-funded the initiative with 1 million € in cooperation with the five Federal States (Berlin, Lower Saxony, Saxony, Saxony - Anhalt and Thuringia) and with private foundations.

The voluntary cultural year has become an official field of activity for long-term voluntary youth services of the Voluntary Year of Social Services Law that went into effect on June 1st, 2002.

The pedagogical concept of the voluntary cultural year includes four seminars per year for each group of volunteers. They are conducted by the coordination agencies at a Federal State level, facilitated by professional artists, social workers and former

⁴⁹ Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service, 1964, last amended on May 27, 2002.

volunteers. The subjects of this 25 days seminar range from individual motivation, teamwork, and conflict resolution to specific artistic techniques and political questions.

Quality standards were developed and the following principles provide guidance for active participation of young volunteers in cultural projects at the local level:

- Target groups of this service are children and young people. Under the heading: “Youth for Youth”, they develop and manage activities for other young people.
- The service does not replace paid labour.
- Openness and innovation are conditions for volunteer participation.
- Volunteers learn about working in a cultural institution and can find out if a job in this cultural field would suit them.
- The promotion of cultural-artistic skills, concrete life-experience and the training of key qualifications like knowledge sharing, problem solving and cooperation are the educational basis of learning at the project level.

The pedagogical coaching of young volunteers during their practical work at the project level by local professionals is an essential element. External mentors can be involved for specific technical questions.

An introduction period of 4 weeks is organised for each volunteer. The activities of the volunteers are documented in a work diary.

Volunteers conduct individual work projects during their Voluntary Cultural Year based on a contract with the local agency and present their project results. Local volunteers are supported in their decision-making process with regard to their professional career and the selection of their vocational training.

2.3.2. Voluntary social year in the area of sports (Voluntary Sports Programme)

After a pilot phase, the Voluntary Sports Programme has become an official field of activity for long-term voluntary youth services within the framework of the Voluntary Year of Social Services Law that went into effect on June 1st, 2002.

The aim of the programme is:

- to expand participation in the voluntary year of social services through sports for children and young people;
- to take advantage of the values conveyed through sports in order to develop knowledge and skills whereby young people in particular can develop their physical powers and readiness for personal achievement as well as social abilities such as teamwork, solidarity, tolerance and fair play in a multicultural framework;
- to promote awareness of a positive contribution to those voluntary activities rendered with regard to non-formal education, especially for young people;
- to promote the educational values of mobility and exchange, particularly in a multicultural environment through the organisation of sport and cultural contacts;

- to encourage the exchange of good practice concerning the role sports can play in educational systems with the purpose to promote social integration of disadvantaged groups.

A sports assignment involves institutions that regularly organise games, sports and extra-curricular activities for children and young people, such as sports clubs, sports associations, holiday camps, exercise programmes for kindergarten children, sports schools and activity centres for children and young people.

Duties and activities may include working with clubs or associations, game or sport events, activity or game outings, adventure sport events, skating parties, adult-children tournaments, or other interesting areas in the field of sports.

The regulations of the voluntary year of social services law are also governing the voluntary sports programme.

The main hosts of the programme, the regional sports youth associations (Landessportjugend) cover the costs for health and social insurance, pension schemes, as well as personal liability insurance.⁵⁰

2.3.3. Voluntary Social Training Year

There has even been an initiative for a voluntary service in the business sector, which, however, was not successful⁵¹. Considerations with regard to labour market policies were decisive for the implementation of the model programme Voluntary Social Training Year (FST) in 1999.

This Social Training Year is part of a federal programme for social inclusion of young people from socially disadvantaged local areas. The Social Training Year aims at improving social and professional key qualifications for socially disadvantaged young people in order to facilitate their access to professional and vocational training.

New areas of activities and working conditions enabling individual education perspectives as well as extended services abroad combined with intercultural learning offer favourable framework conditions in that regard.

The Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the Federal Agency for Employment have decided to extend the number of placements from 1000 to 2000 young people and to establish more than 40 new local qualification offices during the second pilot phase which ends in September 2004.

Funds for this programme mainly comes from the employment agencies. The local municipalities provide 10 % of the project costs.

⁵⁰ Source: Deutsche Sportjugend (German Sports Youth)

⁵¹ The Social Training Year of the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) combines the possibilities of the Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service with the Social Code Book VIII, Children and Youth assistance, § 13 Social Work for young people.

2.4. NGO programmes

A broad spectrum of international voluntary services is provided by a large number of voluntary and youth organisations, church related associations, initiatives, welfare organisations and specialised counselling agencies affiliated with other umbrella organisations.

International voluntary services can be done under **many different conditions and in many different ways**: international 1 to 4 weeks short-term workcamps, 3 to 6 months medium-term services or different types of longer-term voluntary service activities from 6 to 12, to 24 months.

International voluntary services have developed their **own terms and regulations**, including health insurance coverage, personal liability coverage, pocket money etc., which are determined in a private contract between the sending and/ or hosting organisation and the volunteer. Most of the costs for these voluntary services are funded by private donations or private grants.

Non-governmental international and national voluntary service organisations provide both, voluntary services governed by a specific legal governmental framework and programmes based on private contracts between without a specific legal framework. In many projects, volunteers doing the same voluntary work, therefore, may serve under very different conditions. A common legal volunteer status has not yet been established.

A first group of programmes is established by **youth voluntary services, peace-orientated organizations or educational institutions** aiming at reconciliation and international understanding mainly in short-term programmes.

Many of them form an **umbrella the 'Trägerkonferenz der Internationalen Jugendgemeinschafts- und Jugendsozialdienste'** (Conference of International Youth and Voluntary Social Services). Its members are an important part of the international youth work and can be regarded as an integral part of adult education and lifelong learning.

Most of these voluntary work organisations are independent NGOs, with a not-for-profit status and are officially **recognised actors in the field of youth work** according to the 'Children and Youth Service Act' (KJHG)⁵². Most of the international youth and voluntary service activities are organised within the context of the regulations stipulated in the guidelines of the Federal Children and Youth Plan.

The 'Conference of International Youth and Voluntary Services' has about 60 member organisations. Twenty of them organise all types of international and bilateral volunteer exchange programmes in nearly all parts of the world, mainly short-term voluntary services but also medium and long-term services (3 to 12 months).

Some of the members are providing international placements for the voluntary social and ecological years and programmes **under the new extension of the voluntary social year in monument preservation in Germany and abroad.**

⁵² Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz, KJHG (Children and Youth Service Act), June 26, 1990 and its amendments.

Some of the organisations provide recognised placements for conscientious objectors to do their civil service in Germany or are recognised to place conscientious objectors to do an alternative service abroad (§14 b Law on National Civil Service – Alternative Service) and also do placements for conscientious objectors within the voluntary years of social and ecological services (§14c) ⁵³ in Germany, within the EU or outside the EU for 12 months.

Other members are active in solidarity work and development aid and send long-term volunteers to Africa, Asia and Latin America (from 6 to 24 months) or receive volunteers from these continents. Furthermore, some members organise educational programmes related to volunteering or intercultural learning and international relationships or even local issues.

Depending on their background, vision and mission, they relate to other sub-umbrellas or to other humanitarian or religious groups of society.

A second group of international voluntary service organisations is active in the field of **north-south volunteering and development aid**. Some international voluntary organizations are member of both umbrellas, the Trägerkonferenz der Internationalen Jugendgemeinschafts- und Jugendsozialdienste' and the Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee

The **subsidiarity principle** allows societies, NGOs, associations, churches, foundations and other independent institutions to take the lead in providing services for children and young people. Thus, a wide range of services has emerged, reflecting the actual social tendencies of society and providing a broad choice for young people and their parents. The German federal system delegates social responsibilities to a large extent to local associations close to the people, as this is also the case in the field of child and youth services.

This social responsibility is also part the municipality's own sphere of activities, known as self-government tasks, which denotes the right and the ability of local authorities, to regulate, manage and plan a substantial share of public affairs under their own responsibility and in the interests of the local population. Social affairs and youth are part of these tasks transferred to the municipalities. The children and youth Service Act entrusts them with major decisions relating to individual welfare cases and with responsibility for compulsory care.

Main **public funding for voluntary service** is provided by the 'Federal Child and Youth Plan' which also covers the activities of federal youth and child care organisations as well as out-of-school projects for young people in areas such as political, social and cultural youth work and international youth exchange programmes.

The Federal Child and Youth Plan' covers the costs for trainings, methodological and study elements and how to facilitate international groups of young people, which includes public funding based on bilateral agreements on youth exchanges by the "Ministry of Families Affairs, Seniors Citizens, Women and Youth".

⁵³ Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service, 1964, last amended on May 27, 2002, Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Ecological Service, 1993, last amended, May 27, 2002, Gesetz über den Zivildienst der Kriegsdienstverweigerer –Zivildienstgesetz Zivildienstgesetz (Act on Compulsory Non-Military National Service), version September 28, 1994, last amended by Article 67 of the Third Law to amend administrative provisions, August 21, 2002, (BGBl. I S. 3322, 3341)

In addition, they receive public funding through other bilateral agreements with other countries on youth exchange and programmes that are organised by quasi-governmental bodies, like the Franco-German Youth Office and the German-Polish Youth Office.

2.4.1. The 'Diaconical Year'

The 'Diaconical Year Abroad' (DjiA), a christian voluntary service, is organized by one of the German welfare associations the 'Diakonisches Werk' of the Protestant Church. It is a full-time year of social orientation, which offers possibilities of service in ten European countries for young people between the age of 18 and 25. The DJiA is a member of a European umbrella, the European Diaconal Year Network (EDYN).

Accommodation, food and pocket money are covered by the partner organisations of the voluntary project. Volunteers enjoy health, accident and personal liability insurance coverage.

The volunteers are prepared for their stay abroad in a one-week preparatory seminar in Germany.

During their stay abroad, the partner organizations provide assistance to the volunteers. Preparatory, intermediate and evaluation seminars at the end of the service will be organized by the partner organization abroad, which also provides assistance and supervision.

After their return to Germany, the volunteers participate in a seminar for all returning volunteers. Work and seminars are an integrated part of the Diaconal Year and the seminars take place during ordinary working hours.

Volunteers within the Diaconal Year abroad enjoy equal rights as those volunteers servicing under the Voluntary Social Year. There is, however, no clear legal basis for child allowance since the DjiA (Diaconal Year Abroad) is not subject to the legal conditions like the Voluntary Social Year.

In many cases the DjiA is, however, recognized as an internship that is prerequisite for being admitted as studying or vocational training. In such a case, the internship forms part of a training, which is acknowledged by the institution that provides the training and is, consequently, part of a training or a study course and includes the right to receive child allowance. The university or institution providing the vocational training has to certify that the internship is prerequisite for admission.

2.4.2. The voluntary year abroad

The voluntary service programme of the International Christian Youth Exchange (ICJA) mainly applies to young people – students, people doing an apprenticeship, employees and students at the age of 18 to 30.

A pedagogical support programme forms part of all exchange programmes, which will be organized by the partner organizations abroad and comprises:
an introductory seminar with language course,

an intermediary evaluation seminar after half of the stay,
an evaluation seminar at the end.

These programmes take place in Europe, Brazil, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Canada and Africa with a duration of 6 to 12 months.

2.4.3 New model projects of voluntary services

New pilot models are tested to increase new approaches of voluntary service.

This new forms of voluntary service are individually tailor-made offers for pupils, vocational trainees and students aged between 16 and 26. They offer flexible working times, models of time accounts for several years, combination of several working areas and new forms of remuneration.

Support measures are provided to improve the participants' ability for social learning and to enhance the acquisition of key qualifications. New impulses should motivate young people for a social involvement.

Regular voluntary work for some hours only. Male and female students from grade 9 – 12 get involved for approx. 2-3 hours per week for the duration of one scholarly year in an institution or initiative of their choice.

Flexible working times. Students agree with their institution or initiative on an overall engagement of for example 500 working hours. The work can be distributed according to mutual agreement and thus allows for an individual arrangement according to times of examination or university vacations.

Full-time work in various institutions. During 10 to 12 months work can be done in two to three different areas like for example in addition to working with handicapped people obtaining basic knowledge in radio journalism and use the working experience for public relations work for the institution.

This approach gives insight into additional working areas in the field of social work combined with project-oriented work. Social institutions and volunteers agree on a working schedule, which is clearly defined in terms of time and content.

The savings model. The basic idea: Within the framework of a new type of acknowledged voluntary service, a total of 800 working hours have to be done (which approximately comes up to a six-month full-time work) which has some advantages, like a reduced reimbursement of studying loans for students (BaföG).

Another issue within this context is the development of alternative forms of remuneration besides financial or money-based incentives (possibilities of further education and qualification, certificates, improved access to vocational training or universities).

This form of work is based on an overall time account of 800 hours and may, if needed, be stretched over a period of several years and be accomplished by a combination of several individually composed modules – like, for example, in addition to studying at school followed by three months full-time work between school and further education and can finally also be done in addition to vocational training or studies.

The 'Diakonische Werk Württemberg' and the 'Evangelische Jugendwerk' in Württemberg organize these new pilot model projects jointly.

The project time schedule was May 2000 until April 2003.

The project was funded above all by financial means of the organizations and supported with funds from the Robert Bosch Foundation and the lottery 'Glücksspirale'.

2.4.4. Programmes supported by the Robert Bosch Foundation

The Robert Bosch Foundation is not a voluntary service organisation but an important institution supporting voluntary work. The foundation supports volunteers exchange programmes between Germany and Central and Eastern Europe. The aim of these programmes is to improve the quality and the visibility of voluntary services in Germany and Europe.

In addition, the foundation supports voluntary service in projects of civic involvement in the new federal states and innovative voluntary projects and, furthermore voluntary services in humanitarian aid in Eastern and Central Europe.

Their focus is on involving young people in civil society through voluntary service.

To promote voluntary service, the Bosch Foundation has published a manifest "A call for voluntary service in Germany & Europe"⁵⁴ which has received high attention and influenced the debate on the future of voluntary service in Germany. This call suggests the creation of a foundation for voluntary services and increased the number of voluntary service placements to up to 100.000 after a pilot phase that should end in 2005.

Based on the recommendations of the manifest, the foundation launched a support programme on voluntary services in civic initiatives in 1999. During the first two years about 190 volunteer projects were supported. The total funding for these projects was one million Euros.

The Bosch Foundation continued this programme. In 2002/2003 about 700.000 Euros were allocated to support medium and long-term voluntary service from 6 to 12 month. Each volunteer placement received up to 70 % of the total monthly costs but max. 500 Euro.⁵⁵

Since 1999 the foundation also supported 273 volunteer exchanges between Germany and Central & Eastern European countries (156 going to CEE and 117 coming from CEE). The programme has a strong focus on intercultural exchange and overcoming prejudice.⁵⁶

2.4.5. North-south long-term volunteering in development service

In the course of more than 40 years of development cooperation, non-governmental organizations, private institutions and the Federal Government together have

⁵⁴ Robert Bosch Foundation, Youth Renewing the Community: A Manifest for Voluntary Service in Germany and Europe", Stuttgart, 1998.

⁵⁵ Robert Bosch Foundation, Jugend-Freiwilligendienste, Förderlinien

⁵⁶ Stefan Erb, Presentation of the Bosch programme in CEE on AVSO Regional Training Seminar, Bratislava, April 17 to 21, 2002

accumulated valuable experience and created a broad range of voluntary service instruments for assisting partner countries in the South and the East.

The establishment of an equal partnership between 'North and 'South' and building a world of justice are essential missions of the One-World movements and the international voluntary services.

The "Development Workers Service" programme recruits and places women and men in development cooperation projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the in CEE countries. The development workers must be fully trained in a recognised occupation and have several years of professional experience. The period of service is for a fixed term (two or three years) with the option of a further extension, if needed.

These **volunteers have a recognised status**, based on their specific mission. The title of these volunteers was changed from volunteers or 'development aid assistants' into 'development workers'. Their **status is based on their voluntary activities** and their **intension not to earn money in a professional occupation**⁵⁷ but to assist development during a limited time in their 'host countries' (more than 50 countries in Africa, Latin America, Central and Southeast Asia).

Their placements, legal and social status are based on the German Development Worker Act (Entwicklungshelfer-Gesetz, EhfG), which, on top of a comprehensive social coverage, ensures payment of a monthly allowance and a reintegration allowance.

Development workers have a different status than "experts" or "volunteers". Experts are generally highly paid specialists working for programmes and projects of technical cooperation. Volunteers are young adults who cooperate without vocational training and professional experience in services for solidarity, peace and humanitarian action.

Development workers will be placed based on the requirements from countries with economies in transition and development countries through organizations, which are acknowledged according to the Development Workers Act.

Most of the voluntary service organisations active in the North-to-South voluntary service (exchanges) programmes (short and medium term or incoming programmes) or North-to-South long-term volunteering are members of an **umbrella organisation** called '**Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee**' (Working group on Learning and Serving Overseas)⁵⁸.

This umbrella organization has about 25 members, including most relevant personnel sending organisations (to Africa, Asia and Latin-America). Six member organizations are **recognised as development workers service/voluntary service organisations** active in the field of development aid and funded on the basis of the Development Workers Law.

The six organisations **recognised as development workers services/voluntary services** in the field of development aid are:

⁵⁷ Entwicklungshelfer-Gesetz - EhfG (Development Workers Act), §1, June 18, 1969, BGBl I 1969, 549 and its last amendments, from June 21, 2002.

⁵⁸ The 'Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee' (AKLHÜ) is a network of recognised development, voluntary, youth voluntary and peace services and for other organisations active in development co-operation.

'**EIRENE**', founded in 1957 by Christians committed to the practice of non-violence and providing an alternative to the rearmament after the Second World War. Its founders were members of the historic peace churches - Mennonites and the Church of the Brethren - and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

'**Weltfriedensdienst**' was founded in 1959 with the aim of making a contribution for reconciliation. The underlying idea was to perform a voluntary 'peace service' instead of a military service.

The '**Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe e.V.**' (Association for Development Cooperation; personnel agency of the German Catholics for international cooperation), founded in 1959, is the specialist agency of the German Catholics for international cooperation. The 'fid' Project Services Office, is assigned by the German Commission for Justice and Peace to advise action groups and church-based or church-affiliated organizations to promote long-term voluntary service in development cooperation projects operated by the church.

'**Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst**' (Church Development Service), an association of the Protestant churches in Germany working in the area of development aid. Since August, 200 this umbrella united several other protestant development organisation like, i.e. Service Overseas (DUE), the Protestant Association for Cooperation in Development (EZE), the Churches' Development Service (KED) and the Committee for Ecumenical Mission and Services (OEMW) under one roof.

The '**Christian Expert Service International**' prepares and sends people to development programmes.

All of them offer voluntary engagement (duration 3-24 months) for qualified men and women in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and in countries under transition and reform in Eastern Europe and fulfill the necessary requirements to conclude contracts for assigning qualified personnel in accordance with the German law governing the placement of development workers/volunteers (EhfG).

The '**Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst**' - **DED** (German Development Service) jointly owned by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Society 'Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee', **was founded in 1963**. Since then, more than 10.000 development workers have committed themselves to improving the living conditions of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Rather than being a government agency like the US Peace Corps, the DED has the legal form of a non-profit, limited liability company owned jointly by two shareholders, the Federal Republic of Germany and the working group "Learning and Helping Overseas." The DED is financed by the federal budget.

With this year's development budget of nearly € 85 million, the DED currently has the capacity to place about 1,000 development workers in 45 countries worldwide. About 75 percent of all DED volunteers (not only from Germany but from countries all over the European Union) are university graduates, and the average age has risen from 25 in 1973 to around 40 in 2003.⁵⁹

⁵⁹ Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (German Development Service), Press Release, 40 Anniversary, June 2003

The core of the organization's philosophy is still the aim to help people help themselves. The DED has the following tasks:

It places professionally experienced and socially committed specialists at the disposal of developing countries.

It supports local organizations and self-help initiatives by counselling and financing small programmes and promoting local specialists.

It recruits German development workers wishing to serve as United Nations Volunteers. It promotes understanding for the situation of people in developing countries among the German public and draws attention to questions concerning the common interests and problems of the One World.

The 'European Volunteers Programme' (EVP) was founded at the European Council at Fontainebleau in June 1984 when the Council called on its members to support measures to enable young Europeans (without professional experiences) to work together as volunteers in development projects in the so-called Third World. In November 1985, President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl created the EVP as a Franco-German initiative in the first place. After the experimental phase, other countries were invited to join this programme. This initiative has been incorporated into the regular programme of the German Development Service.

2.4.6. The Civil Peace Service

Recognized NGOs working in the field of development or peace work, like Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden (AGDF), the Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst (forumZFD), the Weltfriedensdienst (WFD), the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe (AGEH), the Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (DÜ/EED), Christliche Fachkräfte International and the German Development Service (DED), established the '**Konsorium Ziviler Friedensdienst**'⁶⁰

This programme recruits specially trained and educated experts for development projects in the field of conflict prevention, reconciliation work and post-conflict care. Placements are effected on the basis of the German Development Worker Act (EhfG). The normal duration of a contract is three years.

The methods for selecting professionals and their preparation for the peace service within the framework of development work were positively assessed. For the sake of the even greater effectiveness of the Civil Peace Service, a more precise observation of effect, a certification of the applied procedures and a clear increase in the funds provided by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development was recommended in the expert report.

The 'Civil Peace Services' are focussing on reconciliation activities like in Zimbabwe, on the promotion of peace alliances and confidence-building measures or work with traumatised groups, on peace education and training of psychotherapists, like in Mozambique, and are organised in co-operation with local non-governmental organisations and other institutions.

⁶⁰ Source: Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (Church Development Service)

The Civil Peace Service is not linked to financial development co-operation but is engaged in the deployment of expertise and capacities. Normal duration of contract is 2 or 3 years, the training part is from 4 to 6 months. The experts work under the legal framework of the German Development Worker Act (Entwicklungshelfergesetz, EhfG).

2.4.7. Other Civil Peace Services

The **Association for Social Defence** (Bund) has developed and promoted a concept to organise a one-year Civil Peace Service for women and men of all ages who want to learn and practice non-violent ways of intervention and conflict transformation, either in Germany or abroad. The volunteers undergo an extensive education in non-violent conflict resolution and work in crisis areas, like neighbourhoods with high racist violence in Germany or conflict areas in other countries. After the completion of the one-year service, the volunteers have to be available for international peacekeeping efforts. The Bund has been involved in the international coalition project 'Balkan Peace Team' which stopped working at the beginning of 2001. The Bund is exploring possibilities for new activities in the field of non-violent conflict intervention.

2.5. The European Voluntary Service

The European Voluntary Service programme (EVS)⁶¹ started in 1996 at a time when the EU was launching its strategies to reduce unemployment.

With the Treaty of Maastricht⁶², youth policy and voluntary service became official components of the EU's objectives with regard to young people. Today, the EVS is part of the "YOUTH" programme⁶³ (Action 2 – Individual voluntary service of young people) and forms part of the European Union's policy to facilitate and promote free movement of European citizens and 'European citizenship' and thus a 'European society'. An additional important objective of the EVS is to promote the recognition of the value of non-formal educational experience acquired in a European context thus embedding the EVS in to the EU strategy to build a European knowledge society in which lifelong learning plays an important role.

The Commission's White Paper on Youth⁶⁴ constitutes a response to the profound sense of disaffectedness, which young people feel for traditional forms of participation in public life, and seeks to bridge the gap between young people and active citizenship.⁶⁵ The White paper on Youth identified voluntary service of young people as a thematic priority, which aims at improving the framework conditions for voluntary service, at removing mobility obstacles, and at increasing voluntary service among young people at all levels.

61 Decision No. 168/98/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 20 July 1998, establishing the Community Action Programme 'European Voluntary Service for Young People'.

62 Treaty on the European Union, Final Act as signed at Maastricht on February 7, 1992, article 126.

63 Decision No. 1031/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 April 2000 establishing the 'Youth' community action programme. The Annex sets out the specific objectives of European Voluntary Service

64 Adopted by the European Commission on November 21, 2001, IP/01/1619

65 Ibid

Voluntary service is part of the 'Open Coordination Method'⁶⁶ among the EU member states to define and implement common objectives.

To a large extent the EVS is based on the experience of international voluntary service organisations and the experiences gained through a pilot programme in 1992 under the 'Youth for Europe' initiative of the EU-Commission and international voluntary service organisations. It offers young people between the age of 18 and 25⁶⁷ the opportunity to volunteer from three weeks up to twelve months in a European or non-European country, working in a non-commercial project. The EVS is open for all young people legally resident in Germany or in an eligible third country. The EVS activities are not a substitute for compulsory civil service of conscientious objectors.

The duration of the EVS is between 6 to max. 12 months. Voluntary service activities can take place in the field of environment protection, arts and culture, activities with children, young or elderly people, conservation of heritages, or sports and leisure. Volunteers participate in activities that are non-profit-making and unpaid, and thus presenting an added value to the local community. An EVS project is based on a partnership between the volunteer, a sending and a host organisation (recognised by the EU-Commission), from another EU member state or from a third country outside the EU. The volunteer should have an active role in the design of the project and make a direct contribution to society.

Personal support is provided for volunteers to socialise and integrate into the local community. In case of problems, the volunteer can contact a mentor. The host organisation is responsible for arranging language-learning opportunities. Training is provided at all project stages (pre-departure, on-arrival training, mid-term evaluation meetings).

Funding is based on the principle of co-funding, with other public or private contributions, in kind or in cash, from the sending and the host organisations.

Participation fees are not allowed. Volunteers receive travel costs, also for pre-project visits (100%), insurance, food, accommodation as well as costs for pedagogical support measures and local travel (300 Euro per month and a lump sum of 600 Euro) and a small allowance, covered by the EVS grant. In Germany, the monthly allowance is 175 Euro (41 Euro per week).

Volunteers have insurance coverage against illness, accident, death, permanent disability and repatriation in case of serious illness or accident and personal liability. The insurance complements the protection provided by national social security systems. The EVS grant may cover exceptional volunteer costs, if necessary and justified.

Volunteers who have completed their voluntary service are entitled to a certificate signed by the Member of the European Commission responsible for the 'YOUTH' programmed, distributed by the National Agencies.

⁶⁶ The Council adopted the framework for European cooperation on youth in May 2002 which defined specific priorities (participation, information, voluntary activities, greater understanding and knowledge of youth) upon which the Member States decided to develop an open method of coordination.

⁶⁷ The Interim evaluation of the Youth Programme 2000-2006, (covering the period 2000-2003) suggests that an 18-30 age limit be introduced, while allowing this limit to be lowered in exceptional cases

Within the framework of the European guidelines for the EVS, the 'German Agency for the EU Action Programme Youth' responsible for the operation of the EVS and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth have agreed on specific criteria for EVS project selection that take into consideration the request national youth work development. The EVS programme supports projects for:

- Disadvantages groups of volunteers who normally do not have own resources, chances and access to actively participate in a European voluntary action
- International voluntary work projects that focus on social integration of disadvantages young people and involve organisations active in this field of operation
- Projects that introduce international voluntary work as a new element and impulse in existing co-operations active in the social, cultural and environmental field or in the youth sector
- Voluntary work project that involve initiatives or organisations never involved in international voluntary work before
- Voluntary work project that open new or innovative field of action

Programme countries are: EU-Members including the new member states, EFTA states and EU associated countries, including Turkey. Programmes in third countries are supported in Euro-Med countries, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, South-East Europe and Latin America.

3. IMPACT ANALYSIS

3.1. Voluntary Services meet with growing interest of young people and society

Voluntary services programmes and their potential in view of **promoting the values of civil society among young people** gained public interest.

An ongoing intensive dialogue about the future of voluntary service programmes has taken place among its main actors on different levels: researchers, experts, practitioners and politicians. This discussion also raises the issue of **future changes of the compulsory military and civil service programmes.**

With regard to the development of civil society, an increased offer for **voluntary service programmes has been considered desirable and was regarded a priority.** Voluntary service programmes for young people are recognised as important learning sites providing personal development and orientation, broadening individual horizons and expanding young people's capabilities.

Voluntary services in Germany have experienced constantly rising demand in recent years. Whereas in 1993 around 7.700 young people decided to participate in a Voluntary Social Year, in 2002 the total number of volunteers in the voluntary social and the voluntary ecological years was around 15.700 young people.

The growing interest of young people is confirmed by several surveys. Young people are open to voluntary involvement if they see it as personal enrichment and thus open up new fields of experience and contact for themselves.

Young people aged between 14 and 24 form a particularly active group within society. Firstly, they have a stronger tendency to participate in clubs and societies, groups and projects than in all other age groups.⁶⁸

Despite considered desirable increase of voluntary service placements and the growing interest of young people for medium and long-term voluntary work, however, at present only an overall small capacity of about 22.000 voluntary work placements is available to accommodate them. This capacity is including all present national and also international voluntary work placements. This total capacity relates to 9,5 million young people who are in the age groups from 15 to under 25⁶⁹.

3.2. Inside experiences of foreign cultures in times of globalisation

International voluntary service programmes are well recognised as an active way of intercultural learning and exchanging common experience among young people worldwide. Short-term programmes have become a regular part of many youth organisations and environmental groups.

⁶⁸ Volunteering in Germany, Results of the 1999 Representative Survey on Volunteering and Civic Engagement, Study commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

⁶⁹ Source: Federal Statistical Office, 10, 2003

The decision to volunteer for social service abroad is mostly based on a number of reasons, such as the desire to help others, to improve language skills, to get insight into foreign cultures etc.

Evaluations show that international voluntary service with a strong focus on personal development have a significant, positive impact on the young people participating in terms of raising their inter-cultural awareness and stimulating intercultural learning. Involvement in international voluntary service builds new capacities for own initiative and creativity. Volunteers acquire new skills, their self-confidence, their commitment and responsibility for society improves. Upon their return they communicate their inter-cultural experience to other young people and encourage them to other international activities.

The 'Shell Youth Study' of 2002 showed that individual achievement orientation and responsibility towards others are not mutually exclusive. Many young people want to shape their own lives. In this time of globalisation, life perspectives must be developed on one's own initiative and on one's own responsibility based on the values of society. **International volunteer services** provide insight views to other cultures and values.

In addition international voluntary services provides an interior view into working environment of other countries and possible professional career. Experiencing other ways of living and working conditions brings upon new orientation and qualifications and helps to find well-grounded decisions for future personal developments. Regarding the educational background of the volunteers, the data of different voluntary organisations show that a majority of them are young women who completed their secondary education.

Well over half of the volunteers have been influenced by the social year in their choice of career. This is revealed by the questionnaires that participants at the Initiative Christians for Europe (ICE) complete at the beginning, during and upon completion of their social service.⁷⁰

3.2.1. Solid capacities and experiences provide a broad spectrum of commitments

A broad spectrum of international voluntary service organisation evolved during the last 50 years, providing a broad spectrum of commitments and a variety of new fields of work in many different sphere of civil society. National networks of international voluntary service organisation have been set up. Many initiatives and programmes related to the churches were created.

New standards for co-operation and volunteer activities, new methods of work and new educational approaches and methodologies have been developed.¹⁶ A training framework and support programmes are accompanying the educational cycle of international volunteering, intercultural and international settings.

New possibilities for conscientious objectors to do their service abroad (§ 14a, 14b and 14c) have enriched the spectrum of long-term volunteering abroad, thus increasing the number of young male participating in international voluntary services.

⁷⁰ ICE Evaluierung des Zusammenwirkens von politischer Bildung und sozialen Diensten von Freiwilligen in Europa, 1996

In addition to the networks of international voluntary service organisations more than 200 organisations and institutions have been recognised to organise alternative service for conscientious objectors abroad (§14 a and §14 b).

The 'Voluntary Social and Ecological Year' and other long-term voluntary programmes have proved to become a stable and meaningful educational opportunity of high quality within the framework of youth policy. Both voluntary service years developed a European dimension; volunteers can even do their service outside the EU. Despite these developments, the number of volunteers and of recognised conscientious objectors doing their compulsory civil services abroad under the condition of the legal framework regulating the two national voluntary years still is relatively low.

3.2.2. Increased experiences and knowledge on local level

The European Voluntary Service became a well-recognised programme in Germany that ensures adequate training, including linguistic one, and personal support throughout the project for each volunteer. The EVS promoted new partnerships for international voluntary services at local, regional and transnational level.

Many new organisations got involved and new international long-term placements were created. The EVS also gave new opportunities for small local organisations to get involved in European activities, establish new partnerships and to participate in European wide networks. Also more experienced organisations got an opportunity to open up to international voluntary services or to increase their international volunteer placements. Local and regional public administrations did increase their awareness and knowledge about international volunteering and youth related issues in a European context.

In the past the EVS supported already existing types and approaches of voluntary projects including activities, which have been part of the national voluntary schemes. This policy has changed. EVS projects provide additional support and increase value. In this context EVS financial support for more established international volunteer organisation is not a stable and long-term base of funding.

It is difficult to measure the direct impact of the EVS on national administrations, legislation and policies, to improve the compatibility and the international dimension of national voluntary services and to increase the proportion of international voluntary work placements within national voluntary work schemes. The EVS impact on national legislation up to now seems to be relatively low. This is may be due to the fact that the scale of the programme is limited. Recent dialogues on the future of voluntary services are very much concentrating on more national issues e.g. in view of the possible termination of compulsory military and civil service. Within the national dialogue the new historical dimension of the enlarge Europe does not seem to be a driving force.

3.2.3. Demand for international volunteer services has seen a steady increase

Also the demand for international volunteer services has seen a steady increase over the last few years.

Young eastern Europeans are very open to social service in the West. According to the German Red Cross their interest to participate in a voluntary year in Germany is increasing. A clear east-west tendency can be seen.

Voluntary service organisations have assessed the numbers of requests from young people willing to participate in international voluntary services. The potential interest is estimated three times higher than placements available.

A comprehensive information service and policy on the opportunities of international voluntary service is not implemented systematically in schools or universities. This of course would increase the number of volunteers.

Despite the increased demand for international voluntary services, its solid capacities, experiences and the liveliness of the international voluntary sector, the total number of placements abroad and international placements in Germany is relatively small, partly due to unequal financial conditions and status for the different benefiting groups of volunteers and partly because of obstacles like the fact that the hosting projects or receiving organisations have to cover the costs for the German social security system which is applied for German volunteers abroad and international volunteers in Germany.

3.3. Positions on the future of voluntary service

3.3.1. The foundation model

From the point of view of many voluntary service organisations the desired objective to integrate all forms of voluntary service in Germany under one legal framework has not been reached till now.

Several programmes for voluntary services abroad as well as the European Voluntary Service still exist outside the legal framework of the voluntary years, mainly involving smaller organisations that cannot afford the costs for social security.

The government recently started to evaluate the implementation of the modified laws of the voluntary years.

A solution, **the foundation model**, with regard to civil society was proposed by the **'Manifest of voluntary service' of the Robert Bosch Foundation**.

This model finds support by several important voluntary service organisations and suggests a joint funding from public and private sources like donations and foundations. Those funds coming from the federal government, which are allocated for the compulsory civil service, should be transferred to a "foundation for voluntary services" in case of an abolishment or reduction of compulsory civilian service.

This foundation capital should be increased by private means and used for a more comprehensive promotion of voluntary services for young people.

3.3.2. Future of citizens' involvement - Impulses for the civil society

The **Enquete-Commission "Future of Citizens' Involvement"** of the German Bundestag in 2001 has proposed legal initiatives and draft recommendations for action in order to contribute towards strengthening and developing voluntary citizens' involvement. The report of the commission underlined the importance of voluntary services as learning sites providing personal development and professional orientation, broadening individual

horizons while accessing new sphere of life. and expanding young people's capabilities, while supporting vulnerable people and engaging for solutions. The commission recognised voluntary services as an important field for social integration and the development for civic engagement.⁷¹

The Federal Government at the same time and also the Federal Council of the Federal States took further initiatives to improve the framework conditions of volunteering while adopting important changes of the Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service, the Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Ecological Service, May 2002, and the Act on Civilian Service, August 2002.

This has improved the access of NGOs to participate and opened up new possibilities for conscientious objectors and other volunteers to participate in international and long-term voluntary activities within the EU and outside. In addition the Enquete-Commission recommended that solutions to provide an appropriate social security for volunteer in the European Service Programme should be worked out in cooperation with other member states of the European Union. In order to increase the possibilities for voluntary services, the commission also underlined the need to clarify the status of volunteers on European level and to think about new models for financial support to smaller organisations, who do not have sufficient resources.⁷²

3.3.3. Creating equal conditions for the voluntary service abroad - Points of view from voluntary service organisations

According to the majority of international voluntary service organisations, the changes of the Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service, the Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Ecological Service, May 2002, and the Act on Compulsory Non Military Civil Service, August 2002 is a step in the right direction, however, in the first place for the voluntary service inside Germany.

The necessary increase of international voluntary services, a strong request from young people is, however, not possible within the framework of this law.

The criticism⁷³ above all refers to the following:

- International Voluntary Services should, according to German law, enjoy complete social insurance coverage, which makes it more expensive and may lead to legal problems in some countries. Due to the fact that it is subject to the social insurance law, services abroad will be limited to 12 months and preparatory trainings generally have to take place in Germany. For many international voluntary service organisations and their partners it is therefore difficult to offer a voluntary social year or an ecological voluntary year abroad.
- The laws on the voluntary year for social and ecological service are furthermore not compatible to the European Voluntary Service. The recommendation for mobility of the European Union which requests all member states to reduce

⁷¹ Source: Bericht der Enquete-Kommission „Zukunft des Bürgerschaftlichen Engagements“ (Report of The Enquete Commission), Deutscher Bundestag, 14. Wahlperiode, Drucksache 14/8900, 03. 06. 2002

⁷² ibid

⁷³ Source: Action Committee Service for Peace and 14 other International Voluntary Service Organisations, Press release, February 21, 2002

obstacles for mobility and award volunteers the status of non-employees to which the Federal government had also agreed to, is, however, not being followed.

- The legal framework of the voluntary years is in favour of male conscientious objectors. The volunteers whose service can be considered as compulsory service enjoy a higher recognition, a “benefit in competition” within the voluntary service programmes. They are better off than others – non conscientious objectors volunteering under the law governing the voluntary years, generally young women or volunteers doing an alternative service abroad based on § 14 b. The chances of women who do not have access to the same financial conditions for a placement abroad will decrease.

In order to increase their international voluntary services, the organisations request:

- A law which considers the interest of international voluntary services and the recommendation of the European Union and makes it possible to increase social and intercultural services as a possibility of learning.
- Reduction of social insurances like the retirement and unemployment insurance or at least a subsidy from the government for social security expenses for all volunteers serving abroad so that those organizations offering international voluntary services are in the position to finance them.
- Payment of child allowances also for those volunteers serving in other voluntary services not governed by the laws on voluntary years of social and ecological services, the European voluntary services or § 14a, and 14c of the Civil Service Act. Furthermore, they demand an increasing of the financial support of these voluntary services.
- Participation of the organizations in drafting the administrative guidelines and in the evaluation of the national programmes of the voluntary years to verify if the objectives have been reached and if additional placements for volunteer services abroad could be created.

3.3.4. Creating more favourable conditions for voluntary services as compared to compulsory services.

The commission on “**Impulses for the civil society – future perspectives for volunteer and compulsory civil services in Germany**” proposed an equal duration of civil service and military service and an extension of volunteer services for all generations, men and women alike.

The Action Committee Service for Peace (AGDF) and the Federal Working Group on International Medium Term Social Voluntary Services (BAG FWD) welcome that the Commission rejects a general obligatory service and calls for an increased number of voluntary service placements as an urgent task.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Source: Action Committee Service for Peace and Federal Working Group on International Medium Term Social Voluntary Services (BAG FWD), press release, February 19, 2004

Both voluntary service organisations point out that, however, “voluntary service and compulsory service do not play an equal role in society. The favourable and necessary structural change from compulsory to voluntary services cannot be achieved by becoming more and more similar to one another but rather by getting more distinguished from one another and also due to improved and more favourable conditions for voluntary services activities.

Only then, the voluntary service can play an important role in public conscience as a fully-fledged service independent from compulsory service, which will thus also present an appropriate way to challenge gender disparities.

Both organisations are critical on the facts that the report of the Commission neglects that compulsory civil service is an obligatory service controlled and monitored by the state even if it covers the demand of society and supports individual development. At the same time, compulsory civil service from its origin and justification remains, like the compulsory military service, an obligatory service and the system of imminent punishment applies to both.

Voluntary service, in contrast, is based on self-commitment and is organised and carried out by non-governmental organisations, which allows that project placements of voluntary services will be selected and shaped according to different criteria.

AGDF and BAG FWD welcome that the Commission emphasize the learning character of voluntary services. They, however, point out that these learning objectives in general are more defined in a context of professional education and that only voluntary services for young people and compulsory civil service should offer a ‘reflection of society’. Both recommend simplifying social security by abolishing obligatory social security as this is the case in the European Voluntary Service Programme (EVS) and that social security regulation for international volunteers should not be guided on those applying to employees.

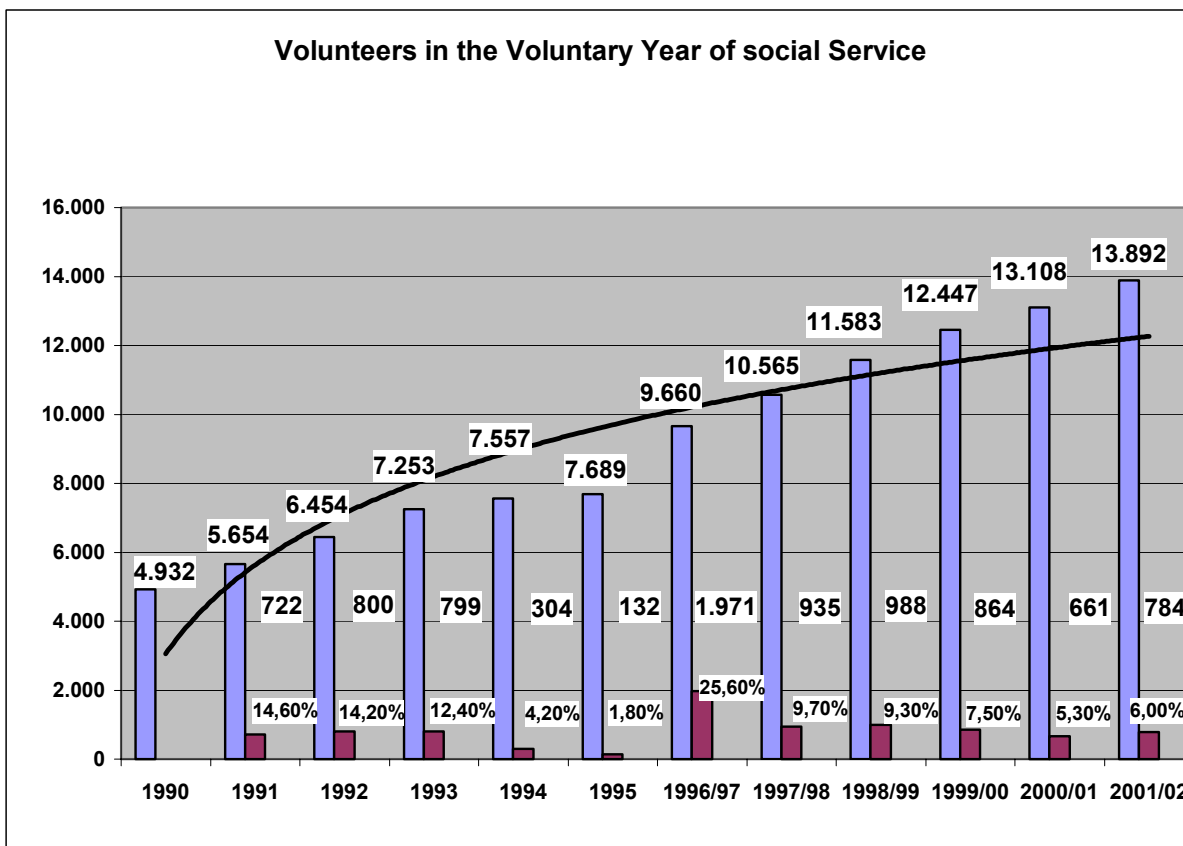
They regret that the report does not contain any precise suggestions on funding. The report of the Commission explicitly underlined the extremely different financial conditions of compulsory civil services and voluntary services but they are, however, not questioned.

Therefore, they welcome that Renate Schmidt, Minister of Youth, explained, when submitting the report, that she agrees that part of the financial means of compulsory civil services will be transferred to support voluntary services.

4. QUANTITATIVE DATA

4.1. Voluntary Years of Social and Ecological Service

The data collected within the framework of the voluntary year of social services have been evaluated for the first time in 2002.⁷⁵



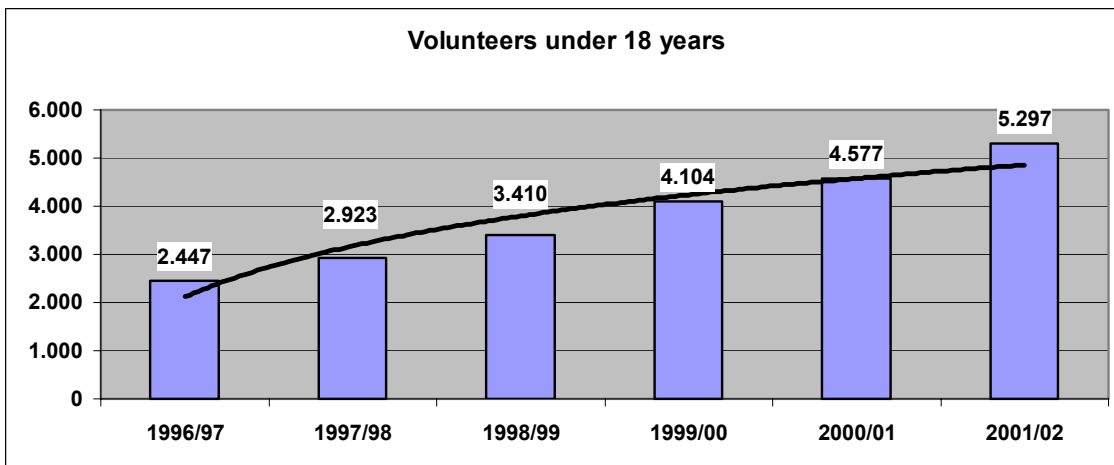
Total numbers of placements per year, increase in numbers, increase in percent

The evaluation of the data shows a continuing growth of the number of volunteers between 1990 (4932 volunteers) and 2001/02 (13.892 volunteers).

The peak of growth was from 1996/97 to 1998/99. During the last six years this development slowed down from 9.7% in 1997/98 to 6% in 2001/02.

More young people under 18 have followed the voluntary social year. Their number increased from 25.3% to 38.1% in 2001/02

⁷⁵ Evaluation of statistics from 1996 to 2002, Federal Working Group of the Voluntary Year of Social Service, January 18, 2003.



Considering voluntary social programmes as a typical activity of well-educated upper middle class young women has changed.

The number of male volunteers increased from 4.3% to 12% in the same period.

The participation of young people with finalized obligatory required education has also increased from 6.7 % to 22.6%.

More young people with secondary education were taking part in the programmes. Their number increased from 31.3 to 37.6% whereas the number of young women with completed secondary educational background decreased from 59.5% to 39.1%.

The scope of the voluntary social year (about 13.900 placements in 2002)⁷⁶ is nearly 8 times larger than the voluntary year of ecological services (about 1.800 placements in 2002). In addition, it is estimated that about 600⁷⁷ recognised conscientious objectors participated within the voluntary years abroad.

The total number of volunteers participating in medium and long-term voluntary services in relation to the total number of young people of the different age groups (each age group at an average of 865.000 young people⁷⁸) who are eligible to participate in the programmes (15/16 to 27 years of age) is very low.⁷⁹

This is also the case in relation to the total annual number of conscientious objectors or young men in compulsory civil service. One of the main reasons is that the total capacity of the presently available voluntary serve placements is only 23.000 places.

According to the Shell Study⁸⁰ 19 % young girls at the age of 12 to 25 are interested to do a voluntary year of social or ecological service. Only 3 % of them have done a voluntary year, about 18 % don' know about the voluntary years and about 60 % have no interest.

⁷⁶ Statistic. 1996 to 2002, 'Federal working group of the voluntary social year'.

⁷⁷ Source: Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ).

⁷⁸ Source: Federal Statistical Office, from about 82 Million inhabitants, 9,5 million are in the ages groups from 15 to 25 years, 10, 2003

⁷⁹ Thomas Rauschenbach and Reinhard Liebig, *Freiwilligendienste - Wege in die Zukunft (Voluntary Services – Pathways into the future)*, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, 2002

⁸⁰ Shell-Study 2002

4.2. Compulsory Civil Service

189,644 young men objected military service for conscientious reasons in 2002. During 2003, the number of conscientious objectors is also on a very high level but not reaching the total number of 2002.

The annual number of conscientious objector placements in compulsory civil services during the last 13 years varied from 80,000 to 145.000. In 1999 about 38.000 placements were reduced. In 2004 the government has allocated 843 million Euros for a total around 100.000 compulsory civil service placements in the federal budget.

Today, 160.565 compulsory civil service placements, mainly in welfare services, are available and 81.287 young men are in service. Out of this number 63.791 do their service in the old federal states and 17.496 of them in the new federal state.⁸¹ Up to now, 1.9 million young men have followed compulsory civil service⁸². Their human resource is of sustainable value to the social welfare sector.

It is estimated that about 3000⁸³ recognized conscientious objectors will follow a social or ecological year of voluntary services (§14 c). About 600 of them did a voluntary year abroad in 2003. This number is increasing because the financial support is much better than for conscientious objectors doing their service under §14b alternative service abroad. These volunteers have to arrange the financial support with the help of the sending organisation themselves.

The annual number of conscientious objectors who do an alternative service abroad (§14b) is decreasing. The estimated annual number of these volunteers is about 400.

Civil Defence as alternative service

Annually about 10,000 men are performing Civil Defence as an alternative to compulsory military service.

4.3 International Voluntary service - non voluntary years – non alternative service abroad, non conscientious objectors

There is no comprehensive statistic available about those volunteers who do a long-term voluntary service with individual contracts, not falling under the legal regulation of the voluntary years or the regulation of the compulsory civil service and its alternatives. The statistics available are also difficult to compare.

⁸¹ Source: Bundesamt für den Zivildienst (Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service – Civil Service), Statistik der ZDP, May 15, 2004. Young conscientious objectors in service

⁸² Source: Bundesamt für den Zivildienst (BAZ), Referate I 1. (Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service – Civil Service)

⁸³ The Bundesamt für den Zivildienst (Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service – Civil Service) has allocated an amount of 15,5, Million € for 3000 placements in 2004

Taking the statistics of the medium size and bigger international voluntary service providers⁸⁴ it can be estimated that about 1.800 volunteers⁸⁵ did a longer-term service abroad in 2003.

4.4. European Voluntary Service Programme

The total number of EVS volunteers in Europe was 3 430 in 2001 and 3 432 volunteers in 2002. These total figures related to an annual grant of 23.9 million euro in 2001 and 21.9 million euro in 2002.

In 2001 the EVS Programme in Germany has received 1.252 applications. Out them 885 were selected for a grant.

291 placements of them were foreign volunteers in Germany:

36 volunteers did a voluntary service of 6 month
 37 volunteers did a voluntary service from 6 to 9 month
 218 volunteers did a voluntary service of 9 to 12 month

and 657 German volunteers did their service abroad:

170 volunteers did a voluntary service of 6 month
 83 volunteers did a voluntary service from 6 to 9 month
 404 volunteers did a voluntary service of 9 to 12 month

Out of the 910 selected EVS placements, which received a grant in 2002:

330 foreign volunteers did a service in Germany
 580 volunteers did voluntary service abroad⁸⁶

At present only an overall small capacity of about 23.000 voluntary work placements is available to accommodate the growing interest of young people for medium and long-term voluntary work. This capacity is including all present national and also 4.600 international voluntary work placements. This total capacity relates to 9,5 million young people who are in the age groups from 15 to under 25⁸⁷.

⁸⁴ Jugendhaus Düsseldorf, Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden, Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Ev. Jugend, Fid, ICE, ICYA, Missionare auf Zeit etc.

⁸⁵ Volunteer placements with private contracts, not including alternatives to military service, not including the voluntary years of social and ecological services

⁸⁶ Source: Youth for Europe, German Agency Youth

⁸⁷ Source: Bundesamt für Statistik (Federal Statistical Office), 10, 2003

5. Resources

Volunteering in Germany, Results of the 1999 Representative Survey on Volunteering and Civic Engagement, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, 2000

Youth Renewing the Fabric of Society: A call for Voluntary Service in Germany and Europe”, Robert Bosch Foundation, Stuttgart, 1998

14th Shell Study, 2002

Thomas Rauschenbach and Reinhard Liebig, Freiwilligendienste – Wege in die Zukunft, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, 2002

Bernd Guggenberger (Hrsg.) Jugend erneuert Gemeinschaft – Freiwilligendienste in Deutschland und Europa, 2000

Positions and views

Stellungnahme von AGDF und BAG zur Empfehlung des Europäischen Parlamentes zur Mobilität vom 21.01.2000

Eckpunkte zur Diskussion über ein „Gesetz zur Förderung eines Freiwilligen Internationalen Dienstes“ (FIDG) vom 16. Nov. 1999

Kommission "Impulse für die Zivilgesellschaft" Empfehlungen, Januar 2004

Legal framework

Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Social Service, 1964, last amended on May 27, 2002, (English version)

Federal Law on the Promotion of a Voluntary Year of Ecological Service, 1993, last amended, May 27, 2002, (English version)

Das Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland, (the German Constitution) May 23, 1949 (BGBl. I S. 1)

Gesetz über den Zivildienst der Kriegsdienstverweigerer -Zivildienstgesetz - ZDG (Act on Compulsory Non-Military National Service), version September 28, 1994, last amended by Article 67 of the Third Law to amend administrative provisions, August 21, 2002, (BGBl. I S. 3322, 3341)

Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz, KJHG (Children and Youth Service Act), June 26, 1990 and its amendments

Kinder und Jugendplan des Bundes, Richtlinien (Children and Youth Plan, Guidelines), January 30, 2003

Entwicklungshelfer-Gesetz - EhfG (Development Workers Act), §1, June 18, 1969, , BGBl I 1969, 549 and its last amendments, June 21, 2002

Abgabenordnung - AO (German Fiscal Code), §51 to 68, March 16, 1976 (BGBl. I S. 613, ber. 1977 I S. 269) and its amendments, June 26, 2001 (BGBl. I 2001 S. 1310)

Ulrich Frey, Für ein neues Freiwilligengesetz, Ausgangslage und Perspektiven der Weiterentwicklung, in Jugend erneuert Gemeinschaft, Freiwilligendienste in Deutschland und Europa, Hrsg, Bernd Guggenberger, 2000

Sieverking, Klaus (ed.), European Voluntary Service for Young People. Questions of Status and Problems of Legal Policy, Frankfurt /Main, 2001

Important Addresses

The Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BM FSFJ)	www.bmfsfj.de
The 'Federal Office for the Compulsory Non-Military Service - Civilian Service' (Bundesamt für den Zivildienst)	http://www.zivildienst.de/index2.htm
Federal working group of the voluntary social year' (Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr)	http://pro-fsj.de/index.htm
Federal working group of the ecological voluntary year (Bundesarbeitskreis Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr	http://www.foej.de/index.html
Federal Office for Non-Military National Service (Bundesamt für Zivildienst), List of organisations providing an alternative service abroad (§14 b)	http://www.zivildienst.de/index1.htm
Society 'Learning and Helping Overseas' (Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee)	http://www.entwicklungsdienst.de/fix/englisch/index.html
Conference of International Youth and Voluntary Services	http://www.traegerkonferenz.de/index.html
European Voluntary Service (EVS) German office"	www.webforum-jugend.de/
Federal working group of catholic associations (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft mittelfristiger internationaler sozialer Dienste)	www.voluntaryservice-international.org
Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr in katholischer Trägerschaft	http://www.freiwilliges-jahr.de/index1.htm

Robert Bosch Foundation	http://www.bosch-stiftung.de/
Missionare auf Zeit (MaZ) Deutscher Missionsrat	www.orden.de
Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden	www.friedensdienst.de
Freiwilligenzentren, Deutscher Caritasverband	www.caritas.org
New models of voluntary service	freiwilligendienste@diakonie-wuerttemberg
Forum Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst	http://www.friedenbrauchtfachleute.de
International Year of Volunteering	International Year of Volunteering
Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung	www.konfliktbearbeitung.net