Who we are

deutsche kinder- und jugendstiftung
Organising change

The German Children and Youth Foundation (DKJS) advocates for success in education and participation in society of young people in Germany. Above all, those children and youths who are growing up in difficult circumstances are at the centre of attention. For this purpose, the German Children and Youth Foundation brings together players from government, economy, science, practice and civil society and jointly develop practical answers to current challenges in the education system.

“We must motivate young people at their start in life instead of frustrating them. A practical example is shown by the German Children and Youth Foundation with the futOUR-Camps.” Daniela Schadt, Patroness
Children and Adolescents

Education and school system

Science

Adult guardians

Educational locations

Society
Counting on strengths

Do not pay attention to any deficits, but strengthen the things that children can master and which concern them – this is one of the German Children and Youth Foundation’s fundamental principles. It encourages young people to defend their interests and to shape our society in an active manner. In its co-operation with educators and administrations, it is not content with “what has always prevailed”; instead, the Foundation incites people to look together for suitable perspectives for action.
Building bridges

The German Children and Youth Foundation is an independent, interdenominational and nonpartisan initiative. It bridges divides between powers and responsibilities and is a good mediator enabling all interested parties to assume responsibility together. In co-operation with more than 70 partners, the Foundation develops and implements programmes and projects for more than 560,000 children and youths every year.

“The German Children and Youth Foundation adamantly reminds us of our responsibility as adults: to ensure that adolescents can find the spirit and competence to take direct control of their own lives courageously.” Roland Koch, Chairman of the Shareholder Group
Arousing curiosity and enjoyment of learning

During the first few years of life, the foundation for later success in education is laid. The German Children and Youth Foundation, therefore, helps, for example, kindergartens to evolve into day care facilities for children and their families. Explorative learning as well as a better encouragement of speech and language development are further focus areas.

Individual promotion instead of segregation

Since 2003, the German Children and Youth Foundation has assisted all-day schools in processes of change, co-operating with federal and regional ministries. Improving the chances of success in school – this is also the field of attention in thematic school networks or the camps for pupils in danger of drop-out.
Offering prospects

A good transition from school to the job begins with realistic vocational orientation as, for example, at the summer camps, which the German Children and Youth Foundation has organised since 2006. In the Foundation’s engagement programmes, young people who have hardly ever become active for themselves or other people acquire important skills and qualifications.

Linking, connecting, combining

Education is a key issue in communal development. For this reason, the Foundation brings together all important educational players, thus encouraging better conditions for co-operation programmes. At present, more than 400 communal education initiatives are being supported.

For more information about current programmes of the German Children and Youth Foundation, please refer to www.dkjs.de
Evaluation

All programmes of the Foundation are evaluated internally or externally. A special department analyses the impact, has the quality checked and draws conclusions for further work. As a member of the German Society for Evaluation (DeGEval), the German Children and Youth Foundation constantly reviews the effects of its social commitment.

Co-operation

The fundamental operating principle of the German Children and Youth Foundation is to stimulate and moderate co-operation. Its partners include important foundations, enterprises, federal and regional ministries, scientific institutions and many partners from practice. Moreover, the foundation is member of the network International Youth Foundation (IYF) and cooperates with a diverse range of European partners – not only in strategic partnership projects funded by the EU.
Nationwide network

The German Children and Youth Foundation has a nationwide network to support all-day schools as well as partners from practice that implement the programmes locally. In Germany, education is a matter of the German Federal States (“Länder”). Therefore, the Foundation has regional offices in 11 of 16 Länder and partners in all the other regions.

Finances

The programmes of the German Children and Youth Foundation are funded by public or private authorities and donations. In 2015, the Foundation had approximately 16 million euros at its disposal, of which more than 85 per cent was directly spent on development and implementation of the programmes.

Transparency

As a non-profit organisation, the Foundation pledges itself to use its resources in a diligent, economical and transparent manner. The annual accounts and the use of funds are examined annually. It orientates itself by the criteria of the Transparent Civil Society Initiative and publishes data of its balance at www.dkjs.de. The Foundation is listed at the Charities Aid Foundation of America (CAF) database and therefore complies with US laws for charitable organisations.

“I have always been fascinated by the fact that alternative thinking is conveyed to the general public and into politics. Today, I see foundations like the German Children and Youth Foundation as the main motivators for social processes.” Rita Süssmuth, Ret. President of the German Bundestag, founder of DKJS
Patronage
Daniela Schadt – Spouse of Federal President Joachim Gauck

Foundation Council
Torsten Albig – Governor of the State of Schleswig-Holstein
Prof. Jutta Allmendinger – President of the Scientific Centre of Berlin for Social Research
Malu Dreyer – Minister-President of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate
Dr. Reiner Haseloff – Minister-President of the State of Saxony-Anhalt
Hannelore Kraft – Minister-President of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer – Governor of the State of Saarland
Michael Müller – Governing Mayor of Berlin
Aydan Özoguz – Commissioner of the Federal Government for Migration, Refugees and Integration
Bodo Ramelow – Minister-President of the Free State of Thuringia
Erwin Sellering – Minister-President of the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
Stanislaw Tillich – Minister-President of the Free State of Saxony
Stephan Weil – Minister-President of the State of Lower Saxony

Shareholder Group
Freudenberg Stiftung, Jacobs Foundation, Körber-Stiftung, Robert Bosch Stiftung
Werner Gegenbauer – Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Gegenbauer Consortium
Dr. Josef Joffe – Publisher of the weekly DIE ZEIT
Roland Koch – Chairman of the Shareholder Group, Ret. Minister-President of the State of Hesse
Dr. Florian Langenscheidt – Entrepreneur and publicist

Executive Office
Dr. Heike Kahl

data status: February 2017
International Cooperation

The Foundation believes that an increase of impact and efficiency in the third sector is driven by exchange of knowledge and experiences on an international level.

The German Children and Youth Foundation provides consulting services for companies, and networks building international (cross-sectoral) partnerships, develops, coordinates and moderates European and international programme partnerships.

For any further information please contact: Maja Greszik, Phone: +49 30 25 76 76 - 65, E-Mail: maja.greszik@dkjs.de

How you can support our work

Our work for children and youths becoming more successful in education is only possible if it is supported by partners and sponsors. There are many ways of co-operation and support: donations, charity events or as an excellence partner.

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Account for donations

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HypoVereinsbank

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Thank You

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