Young refugees have a right to participate. Yet, they rarely exercise it. In response, the German Children and Youth Foundation and the Bertelsmann Foundation have jointly set up the program *Gemeinsam Mittendrin Gestalten – Geflüchtete Jugendliche stärken* (creating conjointly right in the middle – empowering young refugees). The aim is to strengthen young people between the ages of 14 and 27 in order to develop their potential and to exercise their rights. Together with their municipal partners, youth workers at three locations will test methods for the promotion of empowerment and develop them further.

**Mittendrin.**

The project partners in Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saxony-Anhalt create spaces of empowerment in which young people initiate and implement their projects independently. In workshops, they plan their educational and professional future, offer their own cultural activities and create media products. They become aware of their voice, take on responsibility and catch up with their peers.

**More information**

Deutsche Kinder- und Jugendstiftung  
Dr. Çiçek Bacik, head of program  
*Gemeinsam Mittendrin Gestalten*  
Tempelhofer Ufer 11 • 10963 Berlin  
(+49) 30 25 76 76 - 839  
cicek.bacik@dkjs.de

*If you wish further information about the projects please get in touch with our projects partners.*

Funded by:  
*BertelsmannStiftung*

In cooperation with:  
[Epim](https://www.epim.org)  
[Never Alone](https://neveralone.org)
Who?
The Medien-Etage im KJK Sandgasse is a space where young people can learn how to engage with digital media. Their works produced in media workshops (e.g. in the areas of photography, video, computer, smartphone) can be seen in Jugendnetz Offenbach or in the youth magazine “Standby – Das Yougendmagazin” in the Offener Kanal Rhein-Main.

What?
Refugees are regularly featured in the media. However, this media presence often takes place without the inclusion of those affected and tends to depict a generalised image of their experiences. In the project “Zuhause in der Fremde” (home abroad) young people make themselves heard by creating media products themselves.

For whom?
The program works with unaccompanied minors who live in residential groups at the Theresien Kinder- und Jugendhilfezentrum, some of whom go to school in Offenbach.

Who?
The Jugendzentrum “Auf der Höhe” includes an open youth centre, a recording studio, two bowling alleys, a neighbourhood workshop and a youth office. In the youth club, young people get together and chat, listen to music, play pool, tabletop football and table tennis or surf the Internet. In addition, they offer activities, such as a rap and a graffiti workshop.

What?
In the project “Start Up! Ankommen – Weiterkommen!” (Start Up! Arrive – Move forward) young people initiate their own creative projects. Together, they consider the activities they want to implement. They are given space, materials and the necessary support.

For whom?
The project targets young refugees and non-refugees from the local neighbourhood. Amongst the refugees are accompanied and unaccompanied minors.

Who?
20 unaccompanied minors from nine nations are living in the Kinder- und Jugendhaus Weißenfels. The facilities include a kitchen, a common room, a music room, a fitness room and a bicycle workshop. On-site is also the youth and family leisure centre “Das Boot”.

What?
At the age of eighteen the youth welfare service may terminate and many young people are threatened with deportation. In the project, “Selbstbewusst, Selbstständig, Selbstbestimmt” (self-confident, self-determined, self-initiated) young people develop strategies for dealing with these challenges. They design roundtable discussions, initiate leisure activities and implement them independently.

For whom?
The project works with the young residents of the Kinder- und Jugendhaus Weißenfels.

Contact
Medien-Etage im KJK Sandgasse
Sandgasse 26 • 63065 Offenbach
Pia Praschma, manager
(+49) 69 80 65 3965
pia.praschma@jugendamt-of.de

Contact
Jugendzentrum “Auf der Höhe”
Treffpunkt am Weidengraben e. V.
Weidengraben 5 • 54296 Trier
Tom Cartus, manager
(+49) 651 561 75 03
tom.cartus@taw-trier.de

Contact
Kinder- und Jugendhaus Weißenfels der Interessengemeinschaft Bildung Leuna-Merseburg e. V. (IBLM e. V.)
Schützenstraße 43 • 06667 Weißenfels
Thomas Ganz, manager
(+49) 3443 336 972
ganz@iblm.de