

Intergenerational Programmes in Germany

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Symposium

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Outline:

1. Part: Demographic change and intergenerational relationships
2. Part: Brief history on the start and actual status of IP
3. Part: Current IP
4. Part: Activities of the Projektbüro „Dialog der Generationen“

1. Part: Demographic change and intergenerational relationships

- Shrinking and aging population
- Shifting proportions between the generations
- Decline of the number of families
- Increasing mobility makes difficult the relationships between grandparents and grandchildren
- Intergenerational relationships in families are good
- Outside of families the contact between the old and the young generations remain little

Why to promote Intergenerational Programmes?

Intergenerational Programmes encourage the building of relationships between generations outside of families

- they generate proximity, familiarity and solidarity
- they facilitate exchange of experience, knowledge and competences

They assure the fundament of our civil society.

How to implement Intergenerational Programmes?

- As our society is organised towards a strict segregation of age groups in all parts of social life,
- the promotion of relationbuilding outside of families across generations are not a fast-selling item.
- In institutional settings intergenerational communication is perceived as a refreshing experience, which opens new perspectives across sectorial boundaries.
- The implementation of intergenerational programmes outside of families need facilitation and exploration of new ways across generations

2. Part: A brief history about the start of intergenerational programmes

- Early 90ties Begin with seniorpolitical programmes
- 1993 Amendment of the Child and Youth Service Act, making possible the involvement of other age groups
- 1994 German National Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) started an National Initiative to promote the dialogue across generations
- 1995 A first survey raised 154 IP
- 1997 The Projektbüro „Dialog der Generationen“ was launched

Actual status of Intergenerational Programmes

- 10 years later according to estimations of the Projektbüro about 10.000 Projects have been initiated with the tendency to rise.
- Today the need and the benefits of intergenerational exchanges are well known in society.
- The landscape of IP in Germany can be located in a wide and diversified field of activities.
- IP rely on diverse funding of public and private origin and on a large scale on voluntary work of individuals.
- IP can be found in different policy areas involving multiple stakeholders.
- The promotion of IP vary on federal state, regional and local level.

Reasons for this boom of intergenerational practice in Germany...

the realisation that demographic change already started and has to be faced in the upswing of civil society in all social areas and all forms

Led to...

the initiation of programmes and networks promoting civil involvement for all ages on a local, federal and national level

the initiation of programs and networks promoting intergenerational activities beyond family relations

3. Part: Current national programmes funded by the BMFSFJ promoting intergenerational activities

Intergenerational Voluntary Services

2005-2008

Promotion of the development of volunteering programmes open for all generations



Voluntary Services for all Generations

2009-2011

- Promotion of 46 flagship projects
- National establishment of this new voluntary s (8 hours/week over 6 month)
- Further Training for the volunteers
- Internetplatform for information and networking purposes
- Mobile competence team for local counselling



Actionprogram Multi-Generational Centres



Mehr
Generationen
Haus



National program launched in November 2006

Beginn 2008 the target mark of the inauguration of 500 houses was reached

Each house gets a funding of 40.000 € per year for the duration of 5 years

Modell-Programme New Housing and Caring Concepts



Development models of independent housing for senior citizens in big cities, in small towns and on the countryside

including the promotion of intergenerational concepts

like

The Co-housing project „andersWOHNEN“
in Nürnberg for senior citizens and single parents
with children : www.anderswohnen-eg.de



4. Part: Activities of the Projektbüro „Dialog der Generationen“

National Service Centre promoting intergenerational practice in Germany

- Encouragement of networking of intergenerational practice
- Exchange with research and policymakers
- Organisation of conferences, training workshops
- National Information Platform www.generationendialog.de
- Promoting of public notification of IP

Future Challenges for Intergenerational Programmes in Germany

To assure sustainability and to promote mainstreaming of IP in Germany in the future there is a need of

- Research on the impact of Intergenerational Practice and on Intergenerational Communication
- Training and further qualification of the actors involved
- Networking and the anchoring of intergenerational work in the local community
- Realisation of an intergenerational policy, a cross-sectoral policy that takes into account the needs and the concerns of all ages

Sources and usefull links

- **Country Report Germany 2007**
published by the Grundtvig 1 Project
European Approaches to Intergenerational
Learning – www.eagle-project.eu
- **Website Projektebüro 'Dialog der Generationen'**
www.generationendialog.de
- **Promotion of multi-generational volunteering programmes**
www.freiwilligendienste-aller-generationen.de
- **Action-Programme of multi-generational day centres**
www.mehrgenerationenhaeuser.de
- **New housing and caring concepts for seniors**
www.modellprogramm-wohnen.de

Thank you for your attention!

