



# YOUNG, DIVERSE, ACTIVE

MIGRANT YOUTH SELF-ORGANISATIONS  
IN THE STATE OF BRANDENBURG

**ljr**  
landesjugendring  
brandenburg





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## KEY



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# GREETING

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Children and young people from many different countries in the world learn together in kindergartens or schools in Brandenburg, play football together, or are active in sport clubs or youth associations – the diversity of their different backgrounds enriches life in the State of Brandenburg. For this very good reason, the state supports the “Perspektiven” specialist department in the Landesjugendring with funding from the “Bündnis für Brandenburg” in the amount of €60,000 annually. After all, all children and young people need a perspective, even those who have just arrived with us. Youth association work must open itself up interculturally, and young migrants must be offered good support and advice.

They are those who were born and grew up here or young refugees who have only just arrived in Brandenburg in the search for a new home. In the accommodation centres, they are specifically offered opportunities to come into contact with local young people – parties, trips, and so on. More and more refugee children and young people visit public youth work facilities such as youth leisure facilities and

youth clubs – even if significant psychological barriers and reservations still exist on both sides here and there. For the volunteer workers in the youth associations, further training and guidelines are being developed with the aim of giving them more confidence in dealing with young refugees.

All of this with the goal of greater integration for children and young people with migrant backgrounds into our everyday environment, to enable them to take part and co-determine, so that they can find real perspectives here with us.

Sincerely,



Britta Ernst

Minister of Education, Youth and Sport  
of the State of Brandenburg



# MIGRANT YOUTH SELF-ORGANISATIONS

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Migrant youth self-organisations (MYSO) are associations of young people with migrant backgrounds or a family history of immigration who are engaged in political and social issues. In religious communities, too, there are young people who organise themselves and campaign for these goals. Further, MYSO work in an integrative way and are thus open to all interested parties.

MYSO often have a specific target group but getting involved and offering support as well as various activities are open to other persons, too. The services offered by MYSO range from advice and information events to cultural and leisure offerings and targeted political engagement.

**But what significance doe MYSO have for society and its future?** Integrative and participatory projects, which are led by adults, are implemented by countless migrant youth self-organisations. Is there any need for youth organisations at all? **The short answer is YES!** Young people often want to set themselves apart from their parents' generation. They find new trends, break down stereotypes and

have an unprejudiced view of the world. Young people find new paths and MYSO make these accessible to others. They are committed in a casual way to participation and integration and thus make an important contribution to peaceful cohabitation in a cultural society. They work towards ensuring that a basis for more tolerance can be laid and upheld. All these aspects are reasons as to why society benefits from the organisation of young people. But the first place, youth itself is strengthened through MYSO since they provide a platform for new perspectives, identities and friendships. The young people commit themselves to political and social goals, take on responsibility and reflect on themselves as well as their environment.

The empowerment of young migrants and refugees is important because the forging of identity and the new ways of thinking are often hindered by the stereotypical views of past generations. Today, young people with a migrant background or experience of displacement often find themselves in a field of tension between belonging and exclusion. The

search for their own identity is made all the more difficult through social categorisation. "Are you German or Turkish?", "Is your way of thinking characterised by your faith or modern ways?", "Should I place you in this pigeonhole or that one?" The answer in a complex and intercultural society should be: "I can be anything I want without having to categorise myself. I can decide on my identity by myself and resist the stereotypes." In this in particular MYSO make an important contribution. Through their intercultural work, they overcome stigmatisation and generalisation, and give others the courage to repel the old categorisation. They bundle together the most diverse of nationalities, cultures and religions and show that these can only truly develop their individuality when living together. They work towards equality and the freedom to choose one's own way of life.

Through the way they work, MYSO not only enable migrants to integrate themselves in society and participate in it, but are also a significant tool against racism. Since MYSO are open to all young people, they offer the opportunity to mingle

and thus break down prejudices. You get to know other ways of life, food, dancing, music and so on, thus broadening your own horizons. By coming together, young people can empathise with other ways of life, exchange thoughts and experiences, discuss and learn from one another. Ultimately, MYSO not only ensure that young migrants and refugees engage themselves in political and social issues, that they take responsibility and can better reflect on themselves and the environment. They also make an important contribution to the further development of society and lay the foundation for more tolerance, participation and acceptance.

Unfortunately, the benefits of MYSO are not always recognised. There needs to be even more acceptance and recognition of MYSO in society so that young people can risk something new and organise themselves. But a dependable support option and the promotion of young people wanting to organise themselves must also be offered. At the end of the day, they are investing their free time in voluntary commitment, which must not

end up being overwhelming. Financial and structural support are essential for the founding of an MYSO as well as its maintenance.

In the State of Brandenburg, the support structures have thus far only been available to a very limited extent and the achievements of MYSO were seldom recognised. This is probably the reason why there are only a few MYSO or none at all in Brandenburg. To this is added the fact that the proportion of foreigners in the population of the State of Brandenburg is only 4% (as of February 2017). The need for intercultural opening up and structural organisation of migrants has thus been barely recognised in the State of Brandenburg up until now. However, the proportion of people with a migrant background seems to be growing in Brandenburg, since many people are seeking asylum because of crises and wars. This development guarantees both opportunities as well as challenges for the State of Brandenburg, which are increasingly being focused upon, utilised and overcome. This also ultimately includes recognising and fostering the

potential of the 37,311 migrants and refugees in the ages of 0-25.

The brochure was created for this reason. It is intended to be an incentive for the foundation of a MYSO and to serve as a source of information. Moreover, the Landesjugendring Brandenburg e. V. pursues the aim of building a network of MYSO so that these can support and reinforce each other. The radius of success should be widened through discussion, exchange of experience and a common effectiveness. The empowerment of teenagers and young adults with either their own or a familial background of immigration to Brandenburg is an important goal.

# “PERSPEKTIVEN” SPECIALIST DEPARTMENT IN THE LANDESJUGENDRING BRANDENBURG E. V.

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The Landesjugendring Brandenburg e. V. offers an advisory service in which the specialist department Perspektiven provides young people and adults with support in realising their visions.

The Landesjugendring Brandenburg e. V. (LJR Brandenburg) is a working group of the state youth associations. It was founded in 1990 and currently comprises 30 youth associations, seven city and municipal youth circles and association-related youth training facilities. It is nonpartisan and cross-confessional; this means that party-political youth organisations are not members of the LJR.

The focus of the work of the Landesjugendrings Brandenburg e. V. is the representation of the political interests of young people before the various levels of responsibility in policy-making. It works constructively with the authorities,

other associations and groups, and business in order to campaign publicly before these bodies for the issues affecting young people with and without refugee experience. Through its contribution in countless state and social committees, through presentation of the interests of young people in the decision-making of social institutions, and through information for the press as well as its own publication work, the Landesjugendring works towards making a contribution to the improvement of living conditions of children and young people in Brandenburg. Thus the LJR takes a stand for issues of youth politics and children's and young people's rights, and develops perspectives and initiatives for a democratic future in Brandenburg.



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For more than three years, the theme of interculturalism and intercultural opening up has been part of the self-conception of the Landesjugendrings Brandenburg. The implementation of this is a task for the whole of society and is made integrally possible in youth (association) work through the Perspektiven specialist department.

Amongst other goals, it is hoped that, with the help of the youth work and this brochure, interested refugee children and young people will be provided with information on the representation of

interests through associations and the "concept of youth association work". The active collaboration with MYSO and young, committed people with experience of displacement participating in them is of particularly importance for the Landesjugendring. Through this, a contribution to the opening up of all structures can be made possible and remains a continuing process.

# ON THE PATH TO SELF-ORGANISATION

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## Experiences by migrant youth self-organisations

In order to allow the potential of youth to fully develop, there are various contact points for young people who want to get involved or organise themselves. Several associations, initiatives and organisations provide advice on how a MYSO can be established, how this can be financed and where opportunities to participate already exist.

The Bund der Alevitischen Jugend in Deutschland e. V. and the founder Fadi Sujaa from Mosaikstein e. V. from Brandenburg share below the experiences they have gained in self-organisation.

They report on opportunities, options and challenges.



### An interview with the Bund der Alevitischen Jugendlichen in Deutschland e. V.

The Bund der Alevitischen Jugendlichen in Deutschland e. V. (BDAJ) is the independent youth organisation of the Alevitischen Gemeinde Deutschland e. V. (AABF) and represents the interests of 78,000 young people in Germany. The BDAJ is almost exclusively organised on a volunteer basis and wants to be recognised as a democratic, young Alevi workers' association that carries out both classic and innovative youth work. Youth, integration and environmental themes are dealt with in particular.

Projects for intercultural and cross-religious exchange as well as cultural events and training seminars are organised.

*What are the personal and social benefits when someone founds or becomes active in a MYSO? Can you say something about your own experience?*

Benefits on a personal level are immediate and formative: particularly the experience of self-efficacy, i.e. that your own voice matters, that you confront matters, take responsibility and can make a difference. A further point is definitely the group experience – the identification with the shared interests and values within the organisation. The discussion culture or, in the association, also the election of delegates and the voting on decisions are part of the democratic experience and offers authentic access to political debate. The fact that the whole thing is a lot of fun so that young people enjoy spending their

free time in the youth group is probably the main pre-requisite for the voluntary work.

The social benefits of getting involved are, compared to the personal level, more abstract and are generally to be found in the area of participation and formative capacity. People who are voluntarily active in their youth usually remain so in their adult lives. MYSO are an important building block for social pluralism: The visibility and also the representation of interests that an MYSO affords are an important impetus in the development of a post-migrant society. One concrete social benefit of MYSO can be that youth circles, youth welfare offices or other institutions can confront racism within their own ranks. This also includes the issue of whether MYSO need to be handled separately. In the best case scenario, a social debate on the question of normalities arises. The diversity of youth associations in Germany is, particularly compared to many of the countries of origin, a great opportunity for young people to get involved in youth politics.

This background can be motivation for the establishment of an MYSO. But even if this is the case, there is no sufficient reason for an exceptional position. Ultimately, it is not the task of young people with migrant backgrounds to commit themselves voluntarily in a justifying way or to function as a "good example of integration".

*Do you have any helpful tips, check lists or similar which might be of structural use in setting up a MYSO?*

There are three central questions that a youth group must ask itself in setting up:

1) What are the goals that bind us together? Do interest groups already exist with which we could communicate or from which we could win members? Or do we rather have to create some sort of draw that will speak to youth and bring them to us?

2) Who can support us? Youth groups don't have to reinvent the wheel in the founding phase – other associations will have a lot of knowledge. Whether we're

talking about an individual person that you ask informally or a professional coaching or exchange programme is irrelevant in the first place: Important is that the coach or established group brings experience with them and that a basis of trust is established so that you have a contact person even for sensitive topics or issues. Moreover, any sort of exchange or contact with other organisations is helpful.

3) How far do we want to go? Do we want to work as professionally as possible or exist as a grassroots collective? How many bureaucratic requirements will we have to fulfil to get financial support from the local authorities, for example? What routes can we take to be recognised on a political level?

*Are there any points of contact/ advisory services for young people who want to establish a MYSO?*

The classic points of contact are definitely the youth circles and youth welfare offices. You shouldn't be put off by the fact that many of the delegates

in the youth circles are approaching retirement age. Other new youth organisations can also be of assistance. They are definitely in a position to understand more clearly what it means to set up a youth group in the 21st century than many of the established associations. To this end, specific networking is often helpful. In our experience, it also makes sense in terms of aims and substance to confront the youth associations in the historical context (Youth Movement, NS, Re-Education). This will lead to a clear picture of the principles, tasks and aims of youth groups. This orientation makes it easier to put your own group into context and develop or refine self-understanding. Offers in this regard can also be made through youth circles or established associations.

#### *Are there opportunities for financial support?*

The two easiest ways are probably projects or activities funding via youth circles or local authorities.

Generally speaking, the first steps will have to be undertaken without any financial help or by means of private funding. Even the most accessible funding is often only available to the group after its first activities have been demonstrated. From the statutes to the notice of exemption: an organisation has to travel a relatively long distance to be considered fund-worthy by sponsors, even in the project area. Especially in the field of finance, it is advisable to focus on the collaboration with experienced powers of association work. The solidarity of interest groups and communities of values and shared goals will ensure staying power that will be necessary in bureaucratic interaction.

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## An interview with Fadi Sujaa – founder of Mosaikstein e. V.



Fadi Sujaa is originally from Syria but his family have lived for several years in Libya. When he was about to be called up by the Libyan army, he decided to flee to Germany. Despite the insecurity and difficulties that the escape and the search for a new home entail, he decided to found an initiative and Mosaikstein e. V. was born. Since March 2016, the association has been committed to the integration and participation of refugees. Mosaikstein e. V. will be introduced in more detail in the second part

of this brochure. First, Fadi Sujaa reports on the experiences that he gained in self-organisation.

*Why did you found Mosaikstein e. V.? What ideas and goals were you following in doing so?*

Refugees are new in Germany. They are confronted with a foreign culture and have to understand and get through complicated bureaucratic processes. They want to be part of society but the lack of knowledge about the customs of the Germans and insecurities make integration difficult. This motivated me to establish an initiative. I wanted to work with those people who weren't yet integrated. I wanted to create a platform for contact and integration. In this, I believe that integration can never be one-sided. Refugees and Germans must come together in an exchange in order to achieve successful integration.

*What experiences have you gained in setting up Mosaikstein e. V.? What challenges and opportunities have come your way?*

I had ideas for projects but didn't know how these could be put into practice. In Germany, bureaucratic processes often make the realisation of project ideas difficult. You have to make a lot of project applications and wait, sometimes for quite a long time, before getting a response. Unfortunately, we got only rejections in the beginning. That was frustrating. Since the most of us were refugees, we didn't have the financial means to pay for the projects out of our own pockets. We were dependent on support. Without the possibility of implementing the projects, we couldn't work on or towards our goals. But our efforts paid off. In the end, our projects were supported by the ministry of social affairs and by various foundations, for example. These provided us not only with financial support but also offered us opportunities to network. It is really great to follow the continual progress made when you found an organisation. All the hard work and efforts are rewarded. Having ideas made reality is a good feeling.

One challenge, however, is the manpower needed for the foundation and maintenance of an organisation. I had never imagined that it would be so difficult to reach and motivate people. We started out with 15 people and had groups in Berlin, Frankfurt (Oder) and Potsdam. At the moment we are only 7-8 people and the active groups continue to exist only in Frankfurt (Oder) and Potsdam. The groups cooperate with and support each other but organise their own independent activities. Through the cooperation between the two cities, the radius of support is widened, which helps our work a lot. But volunteer work costs time. Young people have to invest a lot of time in school and older people often have families. People don't have a lot of time to get involved in voluntary work. And then there are uncertainties with regard to the right of residence in the case of refugees and other difficulties that you come up against when you have to flee to another country. I see that in my own circumstances. I work at the AWO and for the evangelical church, so I have only limited time free to head Mosaikstein e. V. In addition, I still don't

have a residency permit as a refugee. That means that I wasn't able to take part in a conference in the Netherlands with many European associations, for example. I wasn't able to take the opportunity to network with other organisations and to exchange with these. I am grateful for all the contacts that I have been afforded with the help of Mosaikstein e. V. but the lack of a residency permit is a severe limitation.

Added to this is the difficulty that many refugees don't know what volunteer work is. Many unfortunately can't see the benefits in voluntary work and don't understand why you don't get paid. I've seen another problem amongst the Germans. Many harbour distrust when they receive an invitation from a migrant organisation. There's a lot of uncertainty about what migrant organisations do and what goals they have. For example, we held a solidarity party in a leisure venue in Potsdam and only 10-15 of the 100 visitors who came along were German. Because we want to provide a platform for Germans and refugees, we are putting a lot of effort into drumming up

enthusiasm for our work amongst Germans. We want to continually improve and adapt our projects to the needs of our target groups. To this end we have started a project with older Germans. Refugees and German pensioners eat together and exchange views and experiences. It's a lot of fun and all of the participants get a lot out of it. Especially older refugees find it difficult to form contacts with older Germans. Young people find it easier and quicker to make friends through school. They are young and open. But Germany is new for them too. They also have to get used to German culture. Dance is a great opportunity to offer young people a platform for exchange.

We have a dance group in which young people can get together in a very accessible way. The youths work off steam and at the same time get to know each other in a relaxed way.

*What wishes and goals do you have for the future of Mosaikstein e. V.?*

We are sticking to our goals. We want to create a connection between Germans

and refugees. This year, the situation is better for Mosaikstein e. V. than last year. The association is becoming better known and we receive more support than we did in the beginning. But we still hope to see further cooperation so that the organisation can grow. We want to optimise our projects to continue to come closer to our goals.

In July 2016, a demonstration will take place in Potsdam, in which we will offer a three-day programme. We hope to be able to enthuse people with our programme and thus drum up more support. We still have the intention of translating the Mosaikstein e. V. homepage into German so that we can reach more Germans. A group for women is also planned. We also have a lot planned and hope that we continue to be successful and become better.

### Contact:

Contact data for Fadi Suja/  
Mosaikstein e. V. can be found  
under the introduction to Mosaik-  
stein on Page 17.



### WHY ARE MIGRANT YOUTH SELF-ORGANISATIONS IMPORTANT?

- Encourage teenagers and young adults in political participation and self-determined representation of interests
- Take on responsibility for social tasks
- Enable self-organisation in a protective environment
- New educational experience
- Support for integration and participation through empowerment

# INSPIRATION FOR AND BY MIGRANT YOUTH SELF-ORGANISATIONS

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Some young people have already started early to commit themselves to their goals. Little refugee initiatives become loud voices and demands that take effect beyond Brandenburg's borders. Some of the other groups introduced here have formed relatively recently with a vision of an integrative and social society.

We present a small selection of these below. Information on other MYSO in Brandenburg is provided in the brochures from MASGF provided here.  
<http://bit.ly/2vwzXrl>



## Mosaikstein e. V.

The first milestone for Mosaikstein e. V. (MOV) was a demonstration against racism in Potsdam. In 2016, a group of Syrian refugees united people through Syrian folk dance. Since then, MOV has invited participation in various activities in the states of Brandenburg and Berlin in order to build and promote a bridge between cultures and between people themselves. One significant task of the association in this is the strengthening of a multicultural youth, which it wants to promote through future-oriented integration.

MOV is networked with many organisations in Germany and particularly in Brandenburg which are committed to meeting the most diverse of needs of refugees and migrants. With the help of

this network, it is possible for MOV to guarantee individual help to people and provide information on contact points. In addition, MOV believes in the general advantages in collaboration, since everyone gets something out of the exchange of ideas and experiences.

MOV is open to all who are interested in getting involved in integration and unification. To this end, Mosaikstein e. V. expressly invites one and all to participate in the association and to shape the future together.





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## Women in Exile

Women in Exile (WIE) is an initiative by refugee women who came together in Brandenburg in 2002 in order to fight for their rights. They decided to organise themselves as a refugee women's group because they had come to learn that refugee women are twice as likely to be the victims of discrimination.

Their concrete policy lies in the abolition of all discriminating laws against asylum seekers and migrants and the overlap of racism and sexism.

Women in Exile sees itself as a feminist organisation and is one of the few interfaces between the women's movement and the refugee movement. For 15 years, Women in Exile has been committed to ensuring that refugee women and children are provided with the opportunity to move into flats and

that all compounds are abolished. The lack of privacy in initial reception centres and many municipal accommodation centres has meant that many refugee women have been subject to sexual harassment and racism on an almost daily basis, both inside and outside the compounds.

Together, the initiative brings these and other refugee-policy demands from a feminist perspective into the open. For example, with the campaign "No compounds for women and children! Abolish all compounds!". Women meet in this network on the first Saturday of every month in Berlin or Potsdam in order to discuss and implement strategies and actions. Interested people, with or without migrant backgrounds, who are interested in supporting the campaigns are warmly

welcome to participate in future meetings.

Members of the initiative also visit the collective living quarters in Brandenburg to offer refugee women proactive support from the perspective of those affected, and regularly provide information in a newsletter and on the homepage about the living conditions of refugee women in Germany. They take part in various networking meet-ups, participate in demonstrations and offer in their seminars and workshops concrete support for refugee women.



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## Refugees Emancipation

Refugees Emancipation (RE) is a project for the support and emancipation of refugees.

The project was set up by asylum seekers. The goal is to improve the quality of life for refugees in Germany by helping to break down their isolation with the help of the internet. This way, they can maintain contact with each other, with their homeland and with local communities. A computer course takes place within the framework of the project and a website is being built on which refugees can collect and publish information on themes that are important for them but also personal stories.

Refugees Emancipation operates internet cafés free of charge in accommodation for refugees. The internet cafés are open rooms that the asylum seekers manage themselves and in which they can take advantage of alternative educational services.

### **The project consists of two phases:**

1. Installation of an internet connection in accommodation facilities: "Internet cafés"
2. In the internet centres/cafés, computer skills and general social as well as legal orientation is provided.

In addition, digital empowerment training as well as academic help for refugee children and young people is organised.



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## Jugendliche ohne Grenzen

Jugendliche ohne Grenzen (JOG) is a Germany-wide association of young refugees, founded in 2005. Its work follows the principle that those involved have their own voices and do not require "representative concerned-party policy". The initiative decides itself on which forms of action it takes and how these are implemented. JOG is against every form of discrimination, in particular: racism, fascism and anti-Muslim racism.

They always meet concurrently to the conference of the ministry of the interior, whereby the participants regularly elect the "deportation minister of the year". With the "Initiative prize of the year", they also award initiatives, on behalf of all organisations and individuals, that stand up every day in their own

environment for their fellow humans, neighbours and fellow students. The initiative also organises many activities locally. These include the participation in specialist conferences and seminars, the organisation of information events for press and schools, the presentation of demands to politicians, and publicly-effective actions such as demonstrations, rallies and vigils. These and many other activities are undertaken by Jugendliche ohne Grenzen with many supporters.

JOG is already active across Germany and continually work towards founding further local groups. Empowerment is a key element of the initiative's work because it involves supporting children and young people in becoming active themselves and in fighting for the reco-

nition of their rights. This means that they become active protagonists in the social process. And one important part of the work is the mutual support of young people threatened with deportation.

### Our campaigns:

- SCHULE FÜR ALLE – The right to education knows no exceptions
- Appeal of 26.10.2016  
No consequential discrimination of unaccompanied minor refugees
- BILDUNG [S] LOS! Young refugees hand over reports to the chancellery and demand the right to stay
- Left behind here





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## Jugendbund djo-Deutscher Regenbogen, Landesverband Brandenburg e. V.

The djo-Deutscher Regenbogen, Landesverband Brandenburg e. V. youth association is a non-partisan and cross-confessional association. It works for a united, democratic Europe in which the dividing character of borders is overcome. In the context of youth work, it promotes the cultural engagement of young migrants as a tool for the forming of identity and as help for integration.

It disseminates values that promote the peaceful cohabitation of different social and ethnic groups here and across Europe. The services are offered to all children and young people who live in the Federal Republic of Germany – irrespective of origin and nationality.



As an intercultural youth association, it encourages individual social engagement, tolerant, respectful behaviour and the strengthening of self-help potential. The work is always aligned to the same social space in which the children and young people live with their families.

### **"Bilingua-Plus" – Russian-language Saturday school in Potsdam**

The "Bilingua Plus" Saturday school came about through a voluntary initiative by Russian teachers, university lecturers and educationalists. It offers children and young people growing up bilingually with support in conquering linguistic difficulties. The services pro-

mote the learning to deal with language skills in a creative and meaningful way, and open up multilingual opportunities to children.

#### **Bilingua Plus offers:**

- Native-tongue tuition in: the Russian language and literature, music and mathematics
- Music and fairytale time in a parent-child group
- German classes for adults

Creative children can also have a go in the art studio or theatre workshop. There is also a choir group.



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djo-Regenbogen groups in Berlin  
and Brandenburg



„Bilingua-Plus“ Russian  
Saturday school in Potsdam  
c/o Urania Schulhaus GmbH  
Am Moosfenn 1 | 14478 Potsdam



Elena Simanovski  
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[bilingua.schule@gmail.com](mailto:bilingua.schule@gmail.com)



[www.bilingua-plus-potsdam.de](http://www.bilingua-plus-potsdam.de)



## Bahá'i-Gemeinde Potsdam

The Bahá'-i Society is engaged worldwide for unity in diversity, for justice and peace. Countless people commit themselves in the sense of the vision of Bahá'u'lláh for spiritual and moral education and for cross-cultural and cross-religious dialogue. The vision of Bahá'u'lláh of world peace, unity, equity – their development begins at the very basis. In neighbourhoods, in our direct environment, in our schools, university or place of work. It is not necessary to be familiar with the concepts of the Bahá'-i religion to participate in the activities of the Bahá'-i Society. If you share the same goals as above and want to contribute together with other people of the same age of various nationalities and religions to being a force for social change in a challenging time, then you are warmly welcome to enrich the thin-

king of us all with your contribution and participate actively!

### Activities to participate in:

#### ▪ **Study group**

The progress of a society requires the progress of the individuals: a development in the direction of honesty, disentanglement, equity. The characteristics are not displayed in the body, of course, but in the soul of the person. But what is the soul at all? How can it develop and what happens after death? In the study group, answers will be sought and, based on selected quotations from the Bahá'-i scriptures, a deeper understanding developed. The study group thus represents a type of training to learn how one can walk



along a "path of servitude" and thus contribute to the improvement of one's environment.

#### ▪ **Youth weeks**

The goal of the Youth Weeks that take place all over the world is to effect change. Our current societal order stands on a very shaky foundation and is being made even more insecure through today's crises. Three days of intensive exchange on the role of youth in today's world make our responsibility to contribute to the development of a new order very clear. Change begins in the mind, in our discussions and in open, active advice.

More information:  
[www.jugendwochenende.weebly.com](http://www.jugendwochenende.weebly.com)



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[www.potsdam.bahai.de](http://www.potsdam.bahai.de)



[www.facebook.com/juju.potsdam](https://www.facebook.com/juju.potsdam)



Leading classes of children and  
junior youth groups



The future politicians, inventors, teachers and judges play today in our neighbourhood playgrounds. Almost everyone here in Germany has access to intellectual education but moral values are still a foreign concept to many.

Virtues such as "trustworthiness", "equity" and "selflessness" are exactly what a new social order desperately needs. In children's classes and junior youth groups, 3 -15-year-olds play, learn, share their thoughts openly and develop and consolidate a basic moral framework in groups of their peers. In Potsdam, there are groups for all ages and the leadership or support of such a group is a possibility to participate actively.

# ADVISORY OFFICES AND SUPPORT OPTIONS AT A GLANCE

## FLÜCHTLINGSRAT BRANDENBURG

The Flüchtlingsrat (refugee council) is a non-governmental organisation that is active throughout the whole of Brandenburg. Since 1994, people with and without migrant backgrounds, representatives from advisory offices, charity associations, churches, as well as people from self-help groups and political organisations have organised themselves into the council.

Rudolf-Breitscheid-Str. 164  
14482 Potsdam  
Tel.: +49 (0) 331 716 499  
[info@fluechtlingsrat-brandenburg.de](mailto:info@fluechtlingsrat-brandenburg.de)

## FAZIT – SPECIALIST ADVISORY SERVICE IMMIGRATION, INTEGRATION AND TOLERANCE

The work of this specialist advisory service is carried out for one thing on a political-structural level and for another in direct contact with immigrants.

FaZIT commits itself in various projects to the better integration of migrants in the respective communities.

Am Bürohochhaus 2-4  
14478 Potsdam  
Tel.: +49 (0) 331 967 62 50  
Fax: +49 (0) 331 967 62 59

## MIGRATIONS- UND INTEGRATIONSRAT BRANDENBURG E. V.

MIR e.V. is an umbrella organisation for 71 migrant organisations in the State of Brandenburg. The organisation represents the political, social and cultural interests of the population with migrant backgrounds in the State of Brandenburg.

Berliner Str. 52c  
16321 Bernau bei Berlin  
Mobil: +49 (0) 176 77 22 27 77  
[mir-brandenburg@mail.ru](mailto:mir-brandenburg@mail.ru)

## REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS MIGRANT ORGANISATIONS OF THE "NETZWERK MIGRANTENORGANISATIONEN BRANDENBURG (NEMIB)" IN COOPERATION WITH SAMO.FA AND CAGINTUA E. V.

The goals of the network are the representation and strengthening of migrants and their organisations in the

State of Brandenburg as well as – as the name suggests – the interconnection of these.

Tuchmacherstraße 49  
14482 Potsdam  
[info@nemib-ev.org](mailto:info@nemib-ev.org)  
Tel.: +49 (0) 331 704 69 31

## JUGENDMIGRATIONSDIENSTE

The Jugendmigrationsdienste (JMD) support young people with migrant backgrounds of the ages of 12-27 by means of individual services and professional advice for their academic, professional and social integration process in Germany.

Further information on the JMD at:  
[www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de](http://www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de)

## JUGENDMIGRATIONSDIENSTE IN THE STATE OF BRANDENBURG

JMD services are carried out by various bodies, which can be contacted by migrants.

**Barnim-Oberhavel**

JMD Barnim-Oberhavel  
Tel.: +49 (0)3334 279 997  
E-Mail: jmd@lobetal.de  
16227 Eberswalde

**Cottbus**

Diakonie Niederlausitz  
Tel.: +49 (0) 355 488 99 88  
E-Mail: info.jmd@diakonie-niederlausitz.de

**Dahme-Spreewald**

Diakonisches Werk Lübben gGmbH  
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E-Mail: Migration@diakonie-Luebben.de

**Frankfurt (Oder)**

Internationaler Bund  
Tel.: +49 (0) 335 284 96 80  
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**Fürstenwalde**

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Berlin e. V.  
Region Brandenburg  
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E-Mail: jmd-fuerstenwalde@caritas-brandenburg.de

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15907 Lübben  
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**Spree-Neisse**

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**Teltow-Fläming**

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*Locations of youth migration services in the state of Brandenburg.*

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## INTEGRATION OFFICER FOR THE STATE OF BRANDENBURG

The main task for the integration officer of the State of Brandenburg, Dr Doris Lemmermeier, is the counselling of the state government in migrant policy matters. These include general matters of integration and immigration policy as well as issues on laws concerning residency, asylum and migrant policy. Added to this are the areas of activity pursued by the integration officers of the administrative districts.

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Henning-von-Tresckow-Straße 2-13,

Haus S

14467 Potsdam

Tel.: +49 (0) 331 866 50 13

E-Mail: Integrationsbeauftragte@masgf.brandenburg.de

## INTEGRATION OFFICERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS

The integration officers of the administrative districts of the State of Brandenburg support and advise migrants and refugees in all areas of life. They lay a basis for the equality and self-determination of migrants and refugees by, for example, supporting them in residency and social law matters. In addition to this is the promotion and implementation of projects which focus on integration and anti-discrimination. Migrants and refugees who want to organise themselves are also offered support by the integration officers with their expertise and a network.

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*Locations of the Integration Officer in the State of Brandenburg.*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We thank all the associations and initiatives who agreed to be part of this brochure. They and their members stand for the diversity and tolerance of the State of Brandenburg. The Landesjugendring also thanks Gabi Jaschke for her help in designing the content.

The Landesjugendring is committed also in the future to ensuring that an initiative or an association can be founded from a small interest group of young people. And that young people with familial immigrant or refugee backgrounds, like all children and young people, have a right to participate in our democratic society. After all, participation is associated with the basic principles of co-determination, self-organisation and voluntary engagement.

# LEGAL NOTICE

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