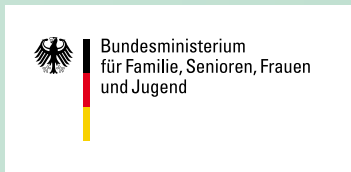


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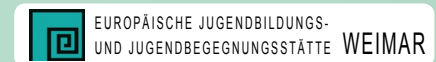


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„Ver-vielfältig-ungen“ (Going Multifarious) - Diversity Conscious Perspectives for Theory and Practice in International Youth Work

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Format: Study



In the course of the strategic projects of Forscher-Praktiker-Dialog (Researchers-Practitioners-Dialogue International Youth Work) the three authors have dealt with the following questions:

1. Which general pan-social conditions are international youth work and diversity conscious approaches embedded in?
2. What does “diversity conscious perspectives” mean?
3. Which approaches for a further development of international youth work at its different levels (pedagogic, youth politics, foreign affairs, academic) result from diversity conscious perspectives?

The publication deals with the questions mentioned above at a theoretical level. The outcomes lead to sturdy and practical considerations, which are completed by examples from the author’s own practical experience within international youth work. The publication offers support for international youth work practitioners, who would like to reflect on their work, their attitudes, approaches and experiences against the background of diversity conscious perspectives.

The most important results and aspects with regards to the three questions are:

1. Which general pan-social conditions are international youth work and diversity related approaches embedded in?

Globalisation, European integration, speeding up of societies, migration, manifold choices and orientation opportunities. These are some exemplary circumstances under which young people develop their identities. They are also circumstances which provide a framework for the work and the positioning of international youth work. This suggests a dynamic understanding that rejects the idea of “one” clearly definable culture which is associated with certain nationalities. Accordingly, questions regarding a person’s forming, lifestyles, ways of thinking and of behaving are not questions relating to an understanding of their culture of origin, but rather questions regarding manifold affiliations and barriers.

2. What does “diversity conscious perspectives” mean?

A static concept of “culture” and the affiliation of people according to their national or cultural background certainly would not be enough. From a diversity conscious point of view, heterogeneity and variety should be respected as natural and complex circumstances. An integral part of this is the recognition of those influences which specific affiliations and proportions of power have on behaviour, attitudes, patterns of interpretation and individual positions.

3. Which approaches for a further development of international youth work result from diversity conscious perspectives?

First of all: It is important to mention that the study focuses on a further development of theory and praxis in international youth work. Existing approaches have been examined in order to support their development; good approaches and traditions have been scrutinised, discussed and enhanced with regards to a certain understanding. As a result, the following statements are meant as basic "food for thought".

Pedagogic level

One's own attitudes should be accompanied by self-reflection at a personal and a professional level. They should be consciously challenged in the course of everyday work (collegial exchange, further education).

Youth politics

Generation of a stronger lobby for institutions dealing with international youth work, since international youth work offers great opportunities to support and reflect the way in which differences are handled.

Foreign affairs

An indicatory and sustainable development of international youth work with regards to diversity conscious perspectives should be expanded as this corresponds with an understanding of Germany as a heterogenic society and a country of immigration.

Academic level

An increased attention to the development of diversity conscious theories and their enlarged discussions is desirable at an academic level. The same is true for praxis oriented research and facilitation.

Finally, "ver-vielfältig-ungen" provides tangible suggestions and ideas for a diversity conscious praxis of international youth work.

Further information

"Ver-vielfältig-ungen" is available through Europäische Jugendbildungs- und Jugendbegegnungsstätte Weimar. The publication costs 6 Euro and can be ordered online:

www.ejbweimar.de

IJAB/transfer training seminars carried out a training course for youth workers, based on the study results, at the end of 2008: "Diversität, Macht und Differenzen in der Internationalen Jugendarbeit" (Diversity, Power and Differences in International Youth Work). The documentation can be downloaded online:

[www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de/aktuelle Projekte](http://www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de/aktuelle-Projekte)

An abstract of the study ("Alle anders – alle gleich") can be downloaded online:

www.forscher-praktiker-dialog.de

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