

“Quality Matters in Information for Young People”

Paris, 15-18 September 2005

European Seminar, organised jointly by ERYICA, Eurodesk and EYCA

<p style="text-align: center;">DESCRIPTION OF QUALITY INITIATIVE OR PROJECT CONCERNING INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE <i>included in Compendium of Quality Initiatives/Projects prepared for the European Seminar</i></p>
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Organisation: **SDJ**

European Affiliation: **ERYICA** (via IJAB)

1. **Name of Initiative** (project, activity, service or product):

GERMANY: JaN-Ko – Information & Communication Network
(= JaN-Ko – Informations- & Kommunikationsnetzwerk)

2. **Description of Initiative or Project** (*please give a short but complete description, including the aim of the initiative or project*):

JaN-Ko is a network of people, information centres, NGOs such as youth councils etc. doing youth information work in Germany. It covers all kinds of youth information services, i.e. web-based youth information as well as youth information centres. The variety of members ranges from local youth information centres to youth portals operating at federal state level. Originally founded in 1999 as a network of East-German youth information workers, it is now open to everyone doing youth information and has members coming from numerous federal states. Originally, it was meant to improve the quality in so far as to provide a basis for exchanging experience and for maximising the distribution of information. Now it also aims at doing projects together or at supporting a nation-wide debate on youth information. Some of the members, who meet about four times a year, for instance run a database together (containing addresses of youth centres, NGOs, youth projects, etc), other members organized an exchange programme between German and Spanish youth information workers in 2004, and some youth information centres that are focussing on web-based information share a content management system or a web-based encyclopaedia for young people. Thus, although this network does not primarily focus on quality matters in the field of information, it gradually improved the quality of information for young people by all its activities due to the fact that access to information became much easier and that youth information workers could gain knowledge and experience. In addition, one of the meetings held in 2002 was about quality matters and how to evaluate quality. In the future it is planned to establish two working groups at national level together with IJAB (national partner of ERYICA), to push forward a debate on quality among youth information centres in Germany and to develop a national basis for communication and co-operation.

3. **Aspect of Quality relating to Youth Information Addressed by This Initiative :**

(please click on / activate the box which corresponds to your answer)

This is:

- a) an initiative that **identifies one or more quality factors as a basis for analysing / evaluating the quality / impact** of a youth information activity or service
- b) an initiative or project that **assesses the quality of the information provided**

<p>c) an initiative or project that seeks to maximise the distribution / impact of the information provided <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) an initiative / project that addresses another aspect of quality (specify the aspect): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(See the above description) improving the quality of our work (by working together, by exchanging experience, ideas and visions) in a country where there aren't any organized training courses for youth information workers (except two annual conferences), where youth information as a topic is not part of the academic training at university level either and where there does not exist anything like a uniform concept or definition of youth information (not to mention quality standards for youth information).</p>
<p>4. Name and Address of Organisation Responsible for This Initiative:</p> <p>Name: Stiftung Demokratische Jugend, c/o Landesjugendring M-V e.V. Address: Goethestr. 73, 19053 Schwerin, Germany</p>
<p>5. Name and E-mail Address of Person to Contact (for information about this initiative):</p> <p>Name: Mrs Birgit Graemke E-mail Address: b.graemke@inmv.de Tel: (+49) 0385-7607613 For information in English, please contact Nadine Bähring - n.baehring@inmv.de</p>
<p>6. Who Participated in This Initiative ?</p> <p>Members of the Network: Youth Information Centre of the City of Dresden, Youth Information Service of Saxony-Anhalt, AGJF Saxony, Youth Portal of Mecklenburg-Westpomerania, Youth Portal of the Federal State of Brandenburg, Youth Portal www.jugendnetz-berlin.de of Berlin, Youth Portal www.spinnenwerk.de of Berlin, Youth Portal of Baden-Württemberg, Youth Information Bremen, Magazin Corax (Journal for Youth Work)</p>
<p>7. What Was the Scope of This Initiative? <i>(please click on / activate the box which corresponds to your answer)</i></p> <p>Local <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> European <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>8. When Was This Initiative Undertaken <i>(please state the date when the activity was started, when it finished, or if it is still continuing):</i></p> <p>Started in 1999, still continuing.</p>
<p>9. What Were the Results Obtained by This Initiative?</p> <p>- of course, more efficiency by content sharing and an improved distribution of information - meetings (in addition to the annual meetings organized by the German Youth Portal and the IJAB) on a regular basis at which we work on a number of different topics such as technical aspects, participation, public relations, content sharing, cooperation with other networks, the quality of our service and how to improve it, information research and management etc. - content-sharing (concerning newsletters, encyclopaedia, texts & information on overall topics such as volunteering or youth exchange etc.) among the several regional or local youth portals;</p>

- projects: we run two national databases – one containing addresses the other placements for practical trainings for students
- together with the IJAB one future result will be the establishment of two working groups for Germany (see above) and thus the initialising of a debate on a national concept of youth information and of training courses
- there is a network, a kind of resource which you can consult in case you need support in doing youth information work

10. Report – Publication – Other Product (if there is a report, publication or other “product” relating to this initiative, please state where it can be obtained or consulted, and in which language):

The following material is available concerning this initiative:

(please click on / activate the box **which corresponds to your answer**)

Report Publication Other Product (specify): **article in publication**

Title: “Kooperationsnetzwerk der Infodienste aus den Neuen Bundesländern”

Language(s): German

Can be obtained from (address of organisation): Mrs Birgit Graemke,
Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V., Goethestr. 73,
19053 Schwerin, Germany - b.graemke@inmv.de

11. Additional Information:

As with many youth information centres in Europe, some of the members of the JaN-Ko network participate in Eurodesk as well.

This description form has been completed by:

Name of Person: Nadine Bähring, Youth Portal of Mecklenburg-Westpomerania

E-mail Address: n.baehring@inmv.de

Name of Organisation: Landesjugendring Mecklenburg Vorpommern e.V. (Regional Youth Council)