

On the situation of international youth work in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Key outcomes of a study

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Abstract

Against the backdrop of the results of a study on access to international youth work (“Warum nicht? Studie zum internationalen Jugendaustausch: Zugänge und Barrieren”), researchers teamed up with the state youth council for Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (MWP) on a study on the situation of international youth work in MWP to explore the structural environment and requirements concerning high-quality international education, including youth work, in the state. This quantitative survey of youth work experts revealed a number of success factors for international youth work: support structures, sufficient funding, advisory services, cooperation, training and dialogue.

Besides greater financial resources, international youth work in MWP requires the stable integration of international aspects in child and youth work at all levels, along with stronger professional and political recognition. Amongst other things, the article illustrates how the outcomes of the study can be incorporated in upcoming debates around the future of international youth work and prudent youth policy requirements. The research team also plans to use the same research design to conduct comparative studies in other federal states in Germany.