



Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend

Freiwilliges Engagement



Voluntary Youth Services

FSJ and FÖJ



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History and Participants

- | since it's legal introduction in 1964 more than 450.000 young people have participated in the FSJ
- | since 1991 more than 20.000 young people have participated in the FÖJ
- | in 2010/2011 more than 37.500 FSJ-volunteers and about 2.600 FÖJ-volunteers active in Germany
- | in 2010/2011 more than 1.700 FSJ-volunteers and 47 FÖJ-volunteers work abroad



Education and Orientation

- | FSJ and FÖJ are times of education and orientation
- | new skills can be acquired: professional, social, methodological and personal
- | promotes employability
- | mentoring and support in the hosting organization
- | pedagogical support through the voluntary organization
- | accompanying seminars for a minimum of 25 days in 12 months



Profile FSJ

I classical fields

- work with elderly or disabled persons
- hospitals or emergency rescue services
- child and youth services

I additionally introduced since 2002

- FSJ culture
- FSJ sports
- FSJ preservation of monuments and historic buildings



Profile FÖJ

- | work for an environmental protection organization
- | landscape and forest conservation, river and lake protection
- | organic farming, horticulture and animal care
- | environmental protection at the workplace, in science and technology
- | environmental education, information and communication



FSJ and FÖJ – basic parameters (1)

- | possible substitute for alternative civilian service
- | legal rule (and normal case): 12 months
- | possible duration from 6 to 24 months (exceptional case)
- | 25 seminar days in 12 months mandatory
- | ages 16 to 26
- | working hours comparable to full-time employment



FSJ and FÖJ – basic parameters (2)

- | usually receive room & board free of charge or compensation, work clothing as well as an allowance (max. 320€/ month, average 180€/month) → not legally stipulated
- | child benefits are paid
- | treated as equivalent to employment with regard to public law protection regulations
- | social insurance coverage (paid for by the host organization - not the assignment office) warranted
- | extras: voluntary service is considered when applying for admission into an public institute of higher learning



FSJ and FÖJ abroad (Outgoing)

- | FSJ/ FÖJ can be spent abroad if the host organization's headquarters are located in Germany
- | 1750 volunteers are currently serving abroad (2010/2011)
- | a combination of FSJ and FÖJ as well as services in Germany and abroad are possible
- | 5 seminar weeks in 12 months are mandatory – may be divided
- | hosting organizations must be accredited and provide proof of hosting-experience abroad



FSJ and FÖJ for foreign Citizens (Incoming)

- | FSJ and FÖJ are open to all foreign citizens
- | non-EU citizens need a residence permit
- | number in incoming volunteers is unknown



Challenges

- | the current demand for outgoing positions cannot be met
- | lack of information about FSJ/ FÖJ abroad
- | German language skills are of advantage
- | high costs for hosting organizations
- | additional outgoing programs:
 - kulturweit
 - weltwärts
 - new international voluntary youth service