

Daring more youth participation in the EU youth programmes The Youth Advisory Board of the National Agency JUGEND für Europa – a model project for consultative youth participation

Malte Krumrey / Marlene Mayer

Abstract

This article deals with the process of establishing a Youth Advisory Board at the National Agency JUGEND für Europa. The promotion of youth participation through the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps has always been an important topic for JUGEND für Europa. The involvement of young people in the complex structures of the National Agency has been repeatedly sought at various levels over the years. However, only recent developments at both European and national level have given greater weight and importance to the participation of young people in political and social processes. This, accompanied by internal development processes, has fundamentally contributed to the fact that the topic of youth participation was taken up again and the consideration of possibilities of participatory processes in one's own organisation was taken to a new level. With methodological support and scientific advice from the BMFSFJ-funded project "JugendPolitikBeratung" and its team around Prof. Waldemar Stange, a concept of consultative youth participation (konsultative Jugendbeteiligung) was developed that includes the specifics of the organisational structure of JUGEND für Europa as a National Agency and a mediator between the national and European context. This article aims to provide an overview of the development process of the Youth Advisory Board at JUGEND für Europa, which has involved young people from the very beginning, and first insights into the lessons learnt during the process.