

# About Us

The Internationaler Bund  
at a Glance

**Strengthening  
Being Human**





## The Internationaler Bund (IB)

helps people to develop their skills, enabling them to stand up for their own interests and take responsibility in society. The IB is committed to improving people's life conditions and to supporting them in their personal development and career planning. The social commitment of the IB is reflected in a variety of services for diverse target groups worldwide. The activities of the IB are focused on education and social development. While support measures need to be adapted to individual requirements, all programmes of the IB build on each other and are embedded in a holistic perspective. This approach enables the IB to address the needs of people of all ages by implementing a flexible set of social and personal services.

**Our Vision:**  
“Empowering people  
to shape their lives  
self-responsible and  
independently.”

In the following the measures and services of the Internationaler Bund (IB) are presented along three major sectors:

### Caring. Social Development Services

Care, counselling and guidance are required in many life circumstances. The IB offers services for children, young people, adults, senior citizens and families. Professional social work tailor-made for individual life patterns is often required to help find solutions to issues related to social orientation in today's complex societies, situations of great need, low standards of living, social exclusion and other difficult living conditions. [Page 5](#)

### Educating. Education and Labour Market Services

We understand that access to quality education and training is the key to a sustainable future. Education and vocational training are the prerequisites of helping people to shape their living conditions and to develop both personally and at the societal level. [Page 21](#)

### Building Bridges. International Cooperation

In cooperation with its international partners the IB is committed to international understanding and tolerance. It actively participates in tailor-made solutions to social problems and contributes to the welfare and social development of society worldwide. [Page 37](#)



## Caring. Social Development

Care, counselling and guidance are required in many life circumstances. The IB offers services for children, young people, adults, senior citizens and families. Professional social work tailor-made for individual life patterns is often required to help find solutions to issues related to social orientation in today's complex societies, situations of great need, low standards of living, social exclusion and other difficult living conditions. The IB provides services to children, youth and people with special needs in all life circumstances, offering various pathways into society. For the IB, inclusion refers to everybody and does not confer any special status to any group of people. Each and every person is considered to be an enrichment and an important part of society. In its mission statement and vision of mankind, the IB tries to eliminate any barrier in the life of both the individual and society and to grant everyone the right to develop freely, to take responsibility and to participate actively in the development of society.



## Caring. Youth Social Work

Since its foundation, the IB and many of its services have focused on youth. The IB's youth work and youth welfare services, its professional rehabilitation assistance, social work and its own schools and educational centres offer educational and development opportunities to young people. These services are based on the principles of inclusion and empowerment. All young people should receive the same opportunities and learn to respect diversity. Empowerment is taken to mean motivating young people to activate their own opportunities and strengths, in order to solve problems, to overcome crises and stressful situations self-reliantly. The IB has created its own guidelines to assure the utmost protection of children and young people.

In the scope of international youth social work projects, the IB promotes young people's key competence at improving their professional and social skills. The IB is a member of various European networks, including, among others, the Youth and European Social Work (YES) Forum, which is active in international youth social work.

The IB's youth social work can basically be separated into three core areas with increasing relevance: school related, vocation and work related and social environment related youth social work.

### SERVICES:

#### Youth Social Work

- at Schools
- in Specific Social Environments
- Vocation and Work related



## Caring. Support to People with Disabilities

The right to live an independent life is an inalienable right in modern societies and is one of the founding aims of the IB. The IB therefore regards the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities as the basis of our demand to abolish all barriers in everyday life in order to grant all people equal rights and self-determined participation in social and economic life. People with disabilities face pervasive discrimination. Barriers in urban infrastructures (barriers in streets, buildings and public transport), in language usage, in educational systems and, last but not least, in the heads of the majority of society are well-known examples. Even today there are very few children with disabilities who attend regular schools. The IB therefore demands the abolition of all hindering barriers in the environment for every single person and in our society in general. All of our activities and offers aim to make inclusion the reality for everyone. We want diversity to be recognised and honoured everywhere.

We have expressed the way we understand inclusion in our guidelines, entitled 'Support to People with Disabilities', that strictly follow the basic principles and the statutes

### SERVICES:

#### Supporting

- the Choice of Profession
- the Choice of Residence
- a Self-Determined Life

of the Internationaler Bund (IB). Individual development, self-determination and self-expression are focal points of our work. As a consequence, all IB pedagogical projects are guided by the basic concepts of empowerment and inclusion.

## Caring. Educational Support

The IB endorses the demand made in the UN Children's Rights Convention that every child should develop healthily physically, spiritually, morally, emotionally and socially according to their nature, in freedom and dignity. Educational support follows this ideal as an important area of social development alongside familial child rearing.

The IB's product portfolio in this area has been continuously refined. Its non-residential, semi-residential and residential education support represents the core business of social work. The professional positioning of the Internationaler Bund (IB) recognizes education support as an infrastructural service for children, youth and families in the middle of the society; it is understood as an enduring support system. The pedagogical conceptual framework of the IB as it is defined in its basic principles also impacts the content and topic-related orientation of educational support. This orientation was defined in the guidelines of the education support section: "the social pedagogical work of the IB strives towards diversity of decisions and actions, care for and kindness towards fellow humans as well as societal participation and responsibility. It is especially intended for disadvantaged groups of society and their social integration."

### SERVICES:

#### Education Support

- Non-Residential
- Semi-Residential
- Residential



#### SERVICES:

- Child Day Care
- Family Collaboration
- Different Pedagogical Approaches:  
e.g. Reggio Emilia,  
Montessori, Nature

## Caring. Programmes for Children

The IB emphasises compliance with international guidelines for the protection of children's rights in its promotion of children and youth. Its understanding is based on the UN convention of children's rights, which it quotes in its guidelines for the protection of children and young people.

The convention demands that every child has the opportunity for a healthy physical, spiritual, moral, emotional and social development that occurs naturally and in freedom and dignity. Living with children is enriching. Many families are faced with the challenge of reconciling family responsibilities and professional demands. The day-care centres of the IB are places where children can meet others and find a social network alongside their family that allows them to independently strive towards the fulfilment of their needs.

The unique child lies at the centre of the learning process. According to its mission statement, the IB wants to support children to develop freely, to live a

The IB wants to support children to develop freely and to live a self-determined life.

self-determined life, to be integrated into society, to take personal responsibility and to participate actively in the development of society. This promotion and education is based on the guidelines for the protection of children and youth and the work in child care centres.

Further information can also be found in the publication "Child Day-Care Centres of the Internationaler Bund (IB)", a conceptual framework that is addressed to fellow employees in child day-care centres and serves as information for parents and other interested parties, as well as for the internal and external specialist public.



## Caring. Migration, Integration and Support to Refugees

The IB follows the Geneva Refugee Convention in its call to grant stronger protection of refugees or asylum seekers in Europe. As a member of the VENRO network, the IB demands that the EU and its member states take charge of the global responsibility, and in consequence, approve more immigration to the EU and its member states. People do not leave their homes without a reason. They often fear for their lives due to war or massive internal instabilities in their home countries. In accordance with the Geneva Refugee Convention, we demand independent definitions of migration policy and asylum policy.

People who are forced by necessity to leave their homes need special protection. As a signatory of the charter of diversity, we fight against the discrimination of people based on their race, religion or place of origin. We are critical of the fact that it is hardly possible for refugees without residential status in member states of the EU to lead self-determined lives and to participate in society.

Kofi Annan visiting an  
IB refugee home.



In accordance with our mission statement, we demand the right for refugees to develop freely, to live in a self-determined way, to be integrated into society, to take personal responsibility and to participate actively in the development of society.

The IB opposes the practise of excluding refugees and asylum seekers from broad areas of society. We demand the right for life and dignity for all, the implementation of the right to self-determination and free development of every human being and a social framework which guarantees equal rights to education and work for all refugees, enabling their involvement in social and cultural life in their new home country. A detailed description of our demands for dealing with refugees in Germany and Europe are defined in the guidelines for refugees assistance.

### SERVICES:

- Fostering a Culture of Participation
- Youth Migration Services
- Integration and Language Promotion
- Housing Solutions

## Caring. Supporting the Homeless and Debtors

The IB supports the Post 2015 Agenda and campaigns against extreme poverty worldwide. Extreme poverty manifests itself in its most extreme form as hunger or a lack of access to drinking water. The IB continues with its campaign “Active Against Poverty – IB for dignity and participation for people who are affected by or at risk of poverty”. More and more people live in poverty in Europe. In the worst cases this leads to homelessness. Biographical breaks or strokes of fate can turn critical phases in life into almost unmanageable crises in which an autonomous determination of one’s life path and living environment becomes impossible. Inappropriate handling of debt can also lead to extreme poverty and the loss of one’s home in certain circumstances.

In line with our statutes, fighting against this extreme kind of poverty as well as providing immediate support to the affected is a significant part of our work. Every human has the right to humane housing where privacy and security are guaranteed. The IB has defined its own guidelines based on this basic human right to humane housing.



### SERVICES:

- Supporting the homeless
- Supporting the debtors

## The IB Campaign “Active Against Poverty”

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) there are more than 839m people worldwide working for less than two dollars per day with often miserable and health-endangering working conditions and with an income not allowing humane living conditions. In many countries there are no basic standards, e.g. the ILO basic labour standards, either mandatory or followed. The growing number of people working under precarious conditions as well as people with low wages - even in countries such as Germany - confirms that it is time for action.



Against this background and according to its guiding principles the Internationaler Bund (IB) supports the interests of the poor, the marginalized and the disadvantaged. Since its foundation, the IB is committed to the support of disadvantaged people. The IB contributes to active prevention and fight against poverty in many sectors - especially in youth poverty.

The IB promotes the development of the individual and strengthens youth for the future: amongst others through open youth work, streetwork, youth social work, support to families, social environment-focused measures or the children's university. The IB supports opportunities for education: e.g. after-school supervision and homework support, projects for school truants, IB schools, vocational preparation and vocational training.

The IB helps to find the way to a self-determined provision of one's livelihood: Support for the transition from school to vocational training and the world of work, youth migration services, support to the homeless, support to refugees, services for debtors and addicts.



## Caring. Assisting Senior Citizens

The third and the fourth phases of one's life following employment and family have age-related characteristics that often can only be mastered with support. Professional social services for senior citizens in need of help or care are therefore important tasks of the IB. These are implemented following its guiding principles and statutes covering inclusion and empowerment.

Senior citizens are supported to participate in society independently.

This means that the IB provides specific help for self-help: senior citizens are supported in mobilising their own strengths and resources,

participating in society and coping independently with everyday life for as long as possible. Thus we want to delay the onset of incapacitation in elderly people. Following its guiding principles of work with senior citizens and care, the IB offers a broad range of services in this area – from assistance and support to care. The primary goal of the IB's work in care is to give the people entrusted to us new goals and prospects for their current stage of life and to help them to cope with the changing situation. The human being is at the centre of the IB's thoughts, actions and

therefore its work. In accordance with our mission statement, we want

to support senior citizens to develop freely, live a self-determined life, to integrate into society, to take personal responsibility and to actively participate in the development of society.



### SERVICES:

- Care Provisions
- Mobile Services and Assisted Living
- Cultural Sensitive Care



## Caring. Open Child and Youth Work

The IB's highest priority in open child and youth work is compliance with international guidelines with regard to the protection of children and youth. The IB follows the requirement of the UN Children's Rights Convention that every child has the opportunity for healthy, physical, spiritual, moral, emotional and social development that occurs naturally and in freedom and dignity.

As a part of our youth work and welfare services activities, open children and youth work represents a significant area of out-of-school socialization. Its pedagogical, cultural and political assignment and its reference to the social environment provide a great enrichment to leisure time activities for children and youth. It is focussed on children, youth and young adults who want to determine their leisure time creatively and independently. The children, youth and young adults who use the IB's facilities are in an important phase of their life. Open child and youth work as an informal educational entity goes beyond the simple transfer of knowledge and information by promoting the achievement of key (personal, social and methodological) competences. The protection and security of children and youth in care are a matter of course. Legal requirements and regulations form the basis of this work.

Every institution holds a copy of an action plan to follow in the case of the suspected vulnerability of children or youth. Furthermore, the guidelines for the protection of children and youth apply to all areas of the IB Group in its work with children and youth.

### SERVICES:

- Multinational and Multi-cultural Work Assignments
- Prevention and Youth Protection
- Low-Threshold Life Counselling
- Gender-Aware Work





## Educating. Education and Labour Market Services

The IB supports the global action programme Education for All (EFA), which campaigns the global fight against poverty of education. The IB considers access to quality education as the key to a sustainable future. Education and qualification are basic preconditions for securing an individual's livelihood, his/her development and social progress. More than 10,000 children and youth attend the IB schools and higher education institutions every year starting from basic education, offering secondary school services, vocational education and training, as well as higher education. The vocational training measures carried out by the IB are geared towards the labour market. In addition to theoretical instruction, the IB provides training in its own workshops and practical experience on the job in partner companies. The IB also offers inclusive services for people with special needs and shows them a life perspective within society as well as a professional perspective on the labour market. It does not restrict itself just to teaching the necessary vocational skills in its educational activities. In addition to academic and vocational training, personality development has a substantial value in all IB institutions.



## Educating. IB-Schools and Universities

The IB considers access to qualified education as the key to a sustainable and secure future. The IB is a provider of basic, general, vocational and higher education services. The IB medical academies offer courses for a variety of health professions. The aim of all IB schools is to present young people with good educational and developmental opportunities as well as providing professional perspectives on the labour market. Alongside scholastic and vocational education and training, personality development is a major priority in our schools.

‘Bridging the gap’ – this motto of the IB schools provides new opportunities for many: it means the creation of education chains, for instance from the vocational preparatory year to vocational training, then to a vocational school, which could end with meeting the entry requirements for university. Educational careers are made possible in the IB schools that also provide new educational opportunities to children of less educated families or late-starters. To justify the growing interest in the IB schools we focus on quality: we measure our success through our examination results, define challenges and take the necessary steps in the light of our results to adjust quality goals and further development plans.

The courses of the IB universities and academies are developed in cooperation with the private sector to ensure that the needs of the labour market are fully met. The courses are based on a combination of classical, full-time study and the successful German ‘cooperative education’ model, amongst others offering management studies and medical professions.

### SERVICES:

- Primary Schools
- Secondary Schools
- Vocational Schools
- Medical Academies
- Universities



## IB Good Practice: The “Stella” Comprehensive School

The “Stella” integrated comprehensive IB school is one successful example offering education from grade 1-12, accompanied by after-school care. The progressive all-day school follows the approaches and principles of Maria Montessori, meeting the demands and challenges of our time and generation.

Cooperation with parents, voluntary supporters and experts of partner institutions has a special emphasis in the daily work of the school. Participation of school students in the development of the school in all aspects is another core value of the Stella team.

The focus of all activities is the interest and welfare of each student, which is based on positive educational relationships. The holistic approach takes into account the whole person and understands learning as a process at the level of personality development, knowledge and skills acquisition, in order to meet the world later in life as an independent and autonomous individual.

## Educating. Civic Education and Language Institutes

Against the backdrop of globalisation and an ever more closely united Europe, and in the light of an increasingly multi-national and diverse society, strongly opposing currents of extremism, racism and violence has become an even greater challenge. To fight these social ailments, the IB is involved in the European Youth Strategy to promote mobility, intercultural competence and democratic participation of youth, amongst other things. The IB stands for democratic attitudes and behaviours as well as for the acceptance of others. It opposes racism, violence and discrimination. Due to the increasing number of immigrants in Europe and the necessity for international mobility, achieving the goals of political education, as well as work in the areas of tolerance, participation, humanity and solidarity have become highly important topics. The goal of our educational work according to our statutes is to support people in developing freely, living self-determined lives, integrating into society, taking personal responsibility and participating actively in the development of society. Political education is a task which concerns the IB both as an independent field of work and as a cross-sectional task in its educational work because the IB is convinced that democracy has to be learned and internalised in life-long learning.

### SERVICES:

- Civic Education
- Language Training
- Political Education

## The IB Campaign “Schwarz, Rot, Bunt - IB Pro Acceptance and Democracy”

Some topics are sometimes more and sometimes less in the headlines - and yet always topical. Confrontation with extremism and violence is one of these issues and the IB is affected with its work, projects and activities on a daily basis. The campaign ‘Schwarz, Rot, Bunt - IB Pro Acceptance and Democracy’ campaign represents the IB’s manifold commitment to integration and understanding.



The campaign combines a number of ideas, activities and projects that

- promote a spirit of PRO instead of CONTRA
- transfer hope and positive perspectives
- enlighten, inform and give good arguments for acceptance and understanding
- encourage taking a stance and promoting civil courage
- show solidarity with victims of violence
- are manifold and integrative.

Black, Red and Colourful is not only a wish and our vision, it is the realisation of a lively and manifold Europe. The associated ‘Foundation Black, Red, Colourful’ has been financially supporting the activities of the campaign since 2012.

## Educating. Vocational Orientation, Preparation and Training

A completed vocational training is an important requirement for successful social integration and participation. The IB offers a variety of support solutions to people in the process of gaining a qualification. In Germany, vocational training is carried out in a dual system, whereby the practical instruction takes place within a company and theoretical training is provided at a vocational school (college). Young people who cannot find a company in which to complete their practical training can carry this out in a vocational training centre.

### SERVICES:

- Vocational Orientation in Schools and Assessment of Potentials
- Individual Guidance and Advice on Transition from School to Vocational Training – Profession Entry-Level Support
- Vocational Preparation
- External Vocational Training
- In-Training Support - Assistance during Vocational Training







## Educating. Vocational Rehabilitation

In accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, the IB considers participation in professional life as a human right and supports the inclusion of people with psychological, physical and/or mental disability as a significant measure to implement this convention. More than 160 countries, including the EU, the US, Brazil and Angola, have already ratified the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People adopted by the UN in 2006 and therefore committed to its implementation.

Vocational rehabilitation offers people who cannot enter professional life because of an emotional or physical disability or who have pulled out of professional life because of significant psychological disorders the perfect chance for entry or re-entry into professional life. The IB promotes inclusion by considering the special strengths and opportunities of people with physical and mental disabilities in its offers of vocational rehabilitation.

In accordance with our mission statement, the goal of vocational rehabilitation is to help people to develop freely, live self-determined lives, integrate into society, take personal responsibility and actively participate in the development of society. The IB's employees facilitate the entry into professional life for our clients with targeted psychological and socio-pedagogical guidance. They find out which special education or rehabilitation measures will best suit these clients.

### SERVICES:

- Rehabilitation of Vocational Preparation
- Rehabilitation of Vocational Training
- Psychometric Testing and Aptitude Analysis
- Supported Employment

## Educating. Further Education, Retraining, Continuing Training

Today earning capacity is less and less related to social and economic security. The IB is engaged in the the global education agenda (Education 2030) as well as in the Europe 2020 Strategy to improve access to quality education and employment levels in Europe and worldwide. The IB offers continuing education and training to keep its clients qualified for the labour market and to improve their employment situation.

In this way, the IB wants to help its clients in accordance with its mission statement to develop freely, live self-determined lives, integrate into society, take personal responsibility and to actively participate in the development of society.

### Realizing Life-long Learning

The IB also offers educational retraining and language courses to further personal job development.

#### SERVICES:

- Further Education
- Retraining
- Professional Qualification through Language Courses



## Educating. Promotion into Employment

The labour market today is subject to constant change through technological innovation and economic development. Job descriptions and requirements are subject to continuous adaptation processes. The IB is also actively involved in the European Youth Strategy, with the aim of making young people competitive for the European and international labour market.

The IB supports the Europe 2020 Strategy in its goals of poverty reduction and employment promotion. Unemployment is a central phenomenon in many countries

that leads to a difficult social situation for the affected. In accordance with our mission statement, it is the goal of promotion into employment to support people to develop freely, live self-determined lives, integrate into society, take personal responsibility and to actively participate in the development of society. Personal problems are quite often the result of a lack of occupation because the affected people withdraw from society.

The IB supports people to integrate into society.

The IB provides specific support to those affected in this phase of life to ensure their continued integration into society and consequent reintegration into the labour market.

### SERVICES:

- Procurement Activities
- Publicly Funded Occupation
- Active Labour Market Programmes



## Educating. Voluntary Services

The IB has been accompanying voluntary services for young people for more than 50 years. In these services ,mostly young people under 27 years of age can volunteer in the social and ecological fields as well as in culture and sports – in institutions worldwide – for a certain period of time (generally 12 months).

I win, | you win | According to our guiding principles, we motivate people through voluntary services to develop freely, to shape their own life, to integrate into society, to assume personal responsibility and to contribute actively to the development of society in Germany, Europe and worldwide. True to the motto 'I win, you win', our volunteers are not only committed to assuming an active role in supporting their fellow citizens and their environment: they are also given the opportunity to gain valuable experiences and to improve their personal and social competences.

The Voluntary IB Service-Teams introduce interested candidates to relevant institutions and organize the matching process and the seminar programme. In addition, they assist the volunteers in issues regarding their service and in personal matters during their volunteer service.

The goals and processes of IB voluntary services are presented in the conceptual framework.

### NATIONAL SERVICES:

- Voluntary Social Year
- Ecological Voluntary Year
- Federal Voluntary Service

### INTERNATIONAL SERVICES:

- International Youth Voluntary Service
- 'Weltwärts'
- IB Volunteers





## Building Bridges. International Cooperation

Promoting the fields of social development, education and employment as well as international cooperation is an immediate prerequisite for achieving the global education agenda (Education 2030) which is part of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that make up the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. In order to meet future social and economic challenges, the IB is committed to pursuing its international mission and to making strategic offers of expertise as a socially responsible organisation. With its international projects and consultancy work in countries worldwide, the IB contributes to knowledge transfer and thus to improving the living conditions of people in these countries and of people in transition and developing countries. It is currently present in education, training and social development markets in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Northern Africa and Asia (e.g. Poland, Turkey, The People's Republic of China, Russia and Georgia). The IB cooperates with its international partners in international youth and adult education and takes part in actively solving social problems with tailor-made measures. Youth education seminars, internships, volunteer work and expert exchange visits are the focus of its international mobility activities. It takes part in the EU Youth Strategy and supports its implementation in Europe. The aim is to develop more and equal opportunities for all young people undergoing education and training and looking for a job, and also to promote active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity.

## Building Bridges. International Services

More than 65 years of project management experience and a track record of more than 10,000 successfully implemented programmes and projects worldwide demonstrate the IB's know-how in project design, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This experience has enabled the IB to gain sound recognition as a reliable partner of bilateral and multilateral cooperation and donor agencies such as the European Union (EU), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) or the World Bank.



The IB is currently present in education, training and social development markets in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Northern Africa and Asia (e.g. Belgium, Poland, Turkey, The People's Republic of China, and Georgia). With its subsidiaries abroad it offers service provision and consulting services in all sectors of its expertise.

## IB Good Practice: Melekler Special Schools in Turkey

The 'Melekler' IB special schools in Turkey offer individual support, rehabilitation, therapy and remedial teaching for children and youth with disabilities. The schools currently have a capacity for up to 1,000 children and adolescents. The high demand for the Schools of Angels – 'Melekler' – is driven by the innovative concepts, such as facilitated communication, that are introduced by the IB.

All training staff are graduated special teachers. The teachers and support staff participate regularly in further education courses on the job. Frequent study visits to other IB institutions and expert exchanges are cornerstones to continuous improvements of the Melekler special schools quality. The participation of parents and partners is a key element of the schools concept. Leisure activities and parent counselling are offered on a regular basis.

The Melekler schools are committed to the IB's vision of helping people to develop in freedom, to shape their own lives, to integrate into society, to take on personal responsibility, to actively help shaping the development of society, to encourage the willingness for social support to the individual and society as well as to promote international understanding and cooperation.





## Building Bridges. International Youth and Expert Exchange

The IB has been implementing international youth and expert exchange programmes since its foundation. As a significant goal of its articles of association the IB promotes “international understanding and cooperation”. The IB therefore contributes significantly to a more tolerant, open and peaceful society, strengthens international and European awareness and contributes to the implementation of the European Youth Strategy. In accordance with the IB’s mission statement, the exchange programmes help participants to learn to develop freely, live selfdetermined lives, integrate into society, to assume personal responsibility and to actively

The IB promotes  
international  
understanding and  
cooperation.

participate in the development of society worldwide. The topics of and possibilities for interaction are as diverse as the interests of the youth and young adults: youth encounters take place in leisure time, at

work-related meetings, work camps, educational seminars, internships, memorial rides or through expert exchanges.

In its international youth work, the IB particularly focuses on youth with special support requirements. The aim of the projects is to enhance the mutual understanding between young people of different countries and cultures. The youth gain a lot from these exchanges. In most cases it is their first experience with and in a foreign country. While they are confronted with foreign and unknown situations, they reflect on their own cultural identity. In this way they learn about tolerance and acceptance and begin to show an interest in their non-native compatriots. By acquiring important key competences in a professional and social context, they gather self-confidence, which plays an important role in their personal and professional development.



The IB also promotes international expert exchanges. The professionals benefit from a substantial exchange of experiences and enhance their skills. They experience Europe and other continents and are thus able to better transfer their acquired knowledge of these places to their clients and the people they work with. The added professional and intercultural value of international work complements the participants’ competencies. Participants are expert professionals from the areas of youth, social and educational work. The projects are developed and implemented in cooperation with partner organizations from within Europe and beyond Europe in all areas of the IB.

## Building Bridges. International Networks and Alliances

The IB has been a member of various international networks in the fields of social development and education for many years. These networks open up access for the IB to international institutions, raise its profile and presence at an international level and demonstrate its role as a service organisation in almost every field of education and social work.

Amongst others, the IB is a member of the following international organisations:

- Association for Development Cooperation Policy and Humanitarian Aid (VENRO)
- Caravan 2000 Federation - Support for People with Special Needs
- Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE) Network
- European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training (EVBB)
- European Movement in Germany and International
- The German-Arabic Friendship Association
- SOLIDAR - International Cooperation between Social Aid Organisations
- World Disability Union (WDU)
- Youth and European Social Work (YES) Forum



### Internationaler Bund (IB)

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Carlo Schmid, 1896-1979  
Founding Father  
of the German Constitution  
and the IB

## Since 1949.

With almost 14.000 employees, the Internationaler Bund (IB) is one of the largest providers in youth, social and educational work in Europe. Its motto is Strengthening Being Human.

The IB has established more than 700 facilities and branches in 300 locations worldwide, helping 350.000 children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens every year with their career and personal planning and offering a wide range of services. The IB-Group is politically non – aligned and non – denominational. Helping people to develop in freedom, to shape their own lives, to integrate into society, to take on personal responsibility, to actively help shape the development of society, to encourage the willingness for social support to the individual and society, to promote international understanding and cooperation have been core principles since its foundation in 1949 and have remained valid to the association ever since.

[www.internationaler-bund.org](http://www.internationaler-bund.org)

