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The  
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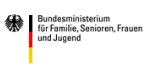


# Young migrants as volunteers - opportunities for participation, participation as an opportunity

## Manifesto

Berlin, 20th of november 2010

gefördert von:



JUGEND für Europa  
Deutsche Agentur  
für das EU-Programm  
JUGEND IN AKTION



Ein Projekt der Trägerorganisationen der Jugendsozialarbeit:



For the International Youth Exchange Programme

### **„Young migrants as volunteers - opportunities for participation, participation as an opportunity“**

which took place from November 14th to 21st, 2010 in Berlin, 52 young migrants living in England, Sweden and Germany came together in Berlin. They originate from 15 different countries and speak more than 30 languages. In workshops and discussions they exchanged their views on topics such as migration, inclusion, participation and volunteering.

In this manifesto they summarised their visions and opinions:

#### **Inclusion means..**

- that you feel you belong to a country that is not your country of origin and that others also regard you as belonging to that country.
- that your origins and your cultural imprint are acknowledged and accepted so you don't feel constrained to give them up.
- a mutual process.
- that people from many different countries live together, are able to relate to each other and respect each other without having to give up their own culture.
- that all people have equal chances and possibilities and get support in the same way.
- that you feel safe and don't have to suffer.
- that you move to a foreign country, learn the language and adapt without having to renounce your original culture.
- to meet in the middle.
- to understand a foreign culture.
- that you come to an unknown place and begin a new process of personal development.
- that you are part of a community.
- that you are accepted as a human being regardless of your education, your work and your economic background.
- factual and true participation.
- that everybody has the same rights to participate in decisions and to be politically active.
- that you are a citizen of the country where you live but are allowed to keep the citizenship of your country of origin.

#### **We are active in volunteering because ...**

- we want to help other people.
- we can give back some of the help we received or give the support that we needed and didn't get.
- through volunteering we can meet nice people and make friends.
- our own experience enables us to understand how it feels to come to a foreign country not knowing anybody and not speaking the language.
- volunteering can be useful for our future career.
- we wouldn't be who we are today if there hadn't been someone to help us.
- we want to pass on our experiences in order to make life easier for others.
- we know what it means not to get support.
- we have something to give to the society.
- we want to take responsibility.
- through volunteering we gain self-assurance and self-confidence.
- we want to be role-models and to open up new perspectives to others.

#### **We wish for...**

- further possibilities for intercultural and international exchange.
- diversity and difference to be accepted as obvious and normal.
- more projects that give support to young people.
- more young people and adults to be interested in volunteering and social commitment.
- a society that not only discussed inclusion but actually puts it into effect.
- more public support for volunteers so that the respective projects can grow and develop.
- the possibility to help even more people.
- prejudices and discrimination due to provenance or colour to be diminished. („If one apple on a tree is bad you wouldn't go and declare that all apples are bad.“)
- equal chances and possibilities for migrants.
- less discrimination on the labour market and within the educational system.
- everyone to be reached out to.
- people to have more patience for communicating with each other.
- for nobody to be constrained to remain excluded.
- that we can be proud of where we come from and also of the country in which we live.