



Member movements of the German YMCA

The 13 independent member movements of the National Association of the YMCA in Germany vary a lot in terms of their size (surface area and number of local YMCA units), functions and activities. They all have a central office in their region and count on a varied number of staff persons to support and coordinate the work within their movement. Their main tasks are:

Provide service and support to the local units

Promote and foster the cooperation among the local units

Offer leadership training to the volunteers / organize leaders

Organize youth gatherings, festivals

Offer camping programmes, tours and excursions

Run centres for seminars, conferences, retreats etc.

Initiate new and creative projects of missionary youth work

Some of the member movements which cover a larger surface area are divided into subregions.

The CJD is special in the sense that it works with a strong focus on educational programmes. There are approx. 150 local institutions offering life skills and formal education to young people with different needs. Some of the target groups are disabled youth, school drop-outs, young people with chronic health problems, but also highly gifted students. In these 150 institutions around 8,000 staff persons are employed.

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Adult and Family Clubs



Music: Youth Choirs / Brass Bands



World Service activities (Fundraising for partners)

International Youth Exchanges

Children and Youth Groups:
Boys & Girls Clubs / Teenager Clubs
Young Adults Clubs



Cultural activities



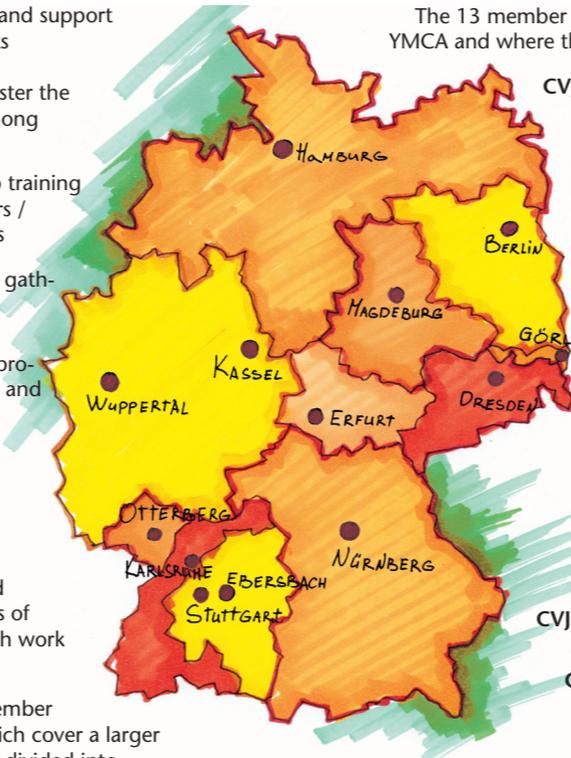
Drop-in centres (Open-door work, youth cafés)



Sports



Camping programmes



The 13 member movements of the German YMCA and where their head office is situated:

- CVJM-Nordbund (Hamburg)
- CVJM-Ostwerk Berlin-Brandenburg (Berlin)
- CVJM-Landesverband Sachsen-Anhalt (Magdeburg)
- CVJM-Landesverband Schlesische Oberlausitz (Görlitz)
- CVJM-Westbund (Wuppertal)
- CVJM-Landesverband Sachsen (Dresden)
- CVJM Thüringen (Erfurt)
- CVJM-Landesverband Bayern (Nürnberg)
- CVJM Pfalz (Otterberg)
- CVJM-Landesverband Baden (Karlsruhe)
- CVJM Württemberg / ejw (Stuttgart)
- AG der CVJM (Kassel)
- CJD (Ebersbach)

Aspects of fellowship in the German YMCA





The National Association of the YMCA in Germany (CVJM-Gesamtverband) is the umbrella organisation of the Christian youth work carried out under the names of "CVJM" (YMCA), "ejw" (Evangelical Youth Movement) and "CJD" (Christian Youth Village Move-



lage Move- in Germany looks back at a history of more than 150 years.

The National Association is the union of 13 independent member associations, 11 of which are regional YMCA movements, the other two, the Urban YMCAs (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der CVJM) and the CJD (Christian Youth Village

Movement) work nationwide. Its main function is to promote and foster the cooperation between its 13 member movements, to coordinate activities and to represent and lobby for the interests of the YMCA and the youth in Germany in general before the federal government and state institutions, the churches and the public at large on national level.

The National Association provides a working platform for its member movements through committees and task groups, conferences, consultations and national meetings or events for YMCA leaders, and through publications.

Additionally, it has two operational functions: (1) It is responsible for the training of professionals and volunteers in the German YMCA. The professionals are trained at the YMCA College in Kassel and the volunteers at the YMCA "Missio-Center" in Berlin; (2) it handles the international cooperation with other YMCAs around the world and relates to the World Alliance and the Area Alliances.

The head office of the National Association of the YMCA in Germany (pictured above) has a staff of approx. 40 persons and is located in Kassel in the geographical centre of Germany.

Local organisations

There are about 2,200 local YMCAs in Germany. They are members of their respective regional Member Association. The Association of Urban YMCAs is made up of 70 local YMCAs that work in the big cities in Germany.

Today, more than 260,000 people are members and regular participants in the activities. The programmes and events are open to both members and non-members – in fact anyone, regardless of their gender, nationality, faith and social class can actively participate. The leadership is formed by committed Christians. The vast majority of the local units are run exclusively by volunteers without professional YMCA secretaries.



In the alps and by the sea – the German YMCA has hostels and hotels all over Germany.

Guidelines of the German YMCA

1. The work of the YMCA is founded on the Paris Basis of the World Alliance of YMCAs and the additional declaration of the National Association of the YMCA in Germany:

„The Young Men’s Christian Associations seek to unite those young men who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be his disciples in their faith and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of his Kingdom amongst young men.

Any differences of opinion on other subjects, however important in themselves, shall not interfere with the harmonious relations of the constituent members and associates of the World Alliance.

The YMCA was founded as an association of young men. Today membership is open to anybody. Men and women, boys and girls from all peoples, denominations and social classes form the worldwide fellowship in the YMCA. In the National Association of the YMCA in Germany, the Paris Basis today applies to the work with all young people.” (Kassel 1985/2000).

2. The active leaders in the YMCA are united in their faith in Jesus Christ. They belong to different Christian churches. The YMCA is a part of the worldwide community of Jesus Christ. Its missionary work contributes to the building up of this community. The YMCA strives for the cooperation with the Christian churches

3. Volunteer work is essential in the YMCA. Volunteers and Professionals work together as partners.

4. The participation in the programmes of the YMCA is open to boys and girls, women and men from all social, ethnic, cultural and religious groups. The programmes offered foster mutual understanding and respect.

5. In the YMCA it is above all young adults, youth and children who experience the love of God through personal care and accompaniment and are invited to find their faith in Jesus Christ.

6. In the fellowship of the YMCA all people shall experience appreciation, discover and develop their talents and take responsibility in accordance with their abilities.

7. The work of the YMCA is done holistically. It regards the human being as an integrated whole of body, mind and spirit, in their relationship to themselves, to other human beings, to creation and to God. The work materializes in a variety of forms of youth work, youth education and social youth work.

8. The YMCA is a youth association based on democratic principles and practices. It lobbies for the interests of young people in youth politics and supports them in their efforts to take social responsibility.

9. The YMCAs are linked together in a network regionally, nationally and internationally, hence they offer young people the chance to learn from each other through meetings and mutual exchanges and to fight for a more equitable living together of people in this world.

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the National Association of the YMCA in Germany on 13 April 2002.