



**Medical School Hamburg**  
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# The Studies on Confirmation Work. A Perspective from General Research on Youth Work

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## § 11 Jugendarbeit

- Jungen Menschen sind die zur Förderung ihrer Entwicklung erforderlichen Angebote der Jugendarbeit zur Verfügung zu stellen. Sie sollen an den Interessen junger Menschen anknüpfen und von ihnen mitbestimmt und mitgestaltet werden, sie zur Selbstbestimmung befähigen und zu gesellschaftlicher Mitverantwortung und zu sozialem Engagement anregen und hinführen.

## § 11 Youth work

- Provision must be made for young people to have access to those Youth Work programs which they need for the furtherance of their development. Such programs shall be based on their interests and shall be organized and carried out with the active participation of young people; they shall encourage and advance self-determination, joint social responsibility and social commitment.

# The aim of Youth Work is the democratic citizen

A democracy is more than a form of government; it is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience.“ (Dewey 1916/1944)

# Principles

Category	Youth Work	Confirmation Work	School
Principles of Participation	Voluntary	Voluntary Decision, Obligation to Participate	Obligation to Participate
Person	Member	Candidate for Confirmation	Pupil
Staff	Voluntary Work has Priority	Professional Staff has Priority	Only Professional Staff
Methods	Experience Based	Experience Based, but also Certificate-Orientated	Certificate-Orientated
Values	Democratic Values	Religious Values	Democratic Values
Interactions	On an Equal Footing	„Minister-Confirmand“ Discourse, with Volunteers on an Equal Footing	„Teacher-Pupil“ Discourse
Space and Public	Local, District	Local, Parish	Local, but also Universal

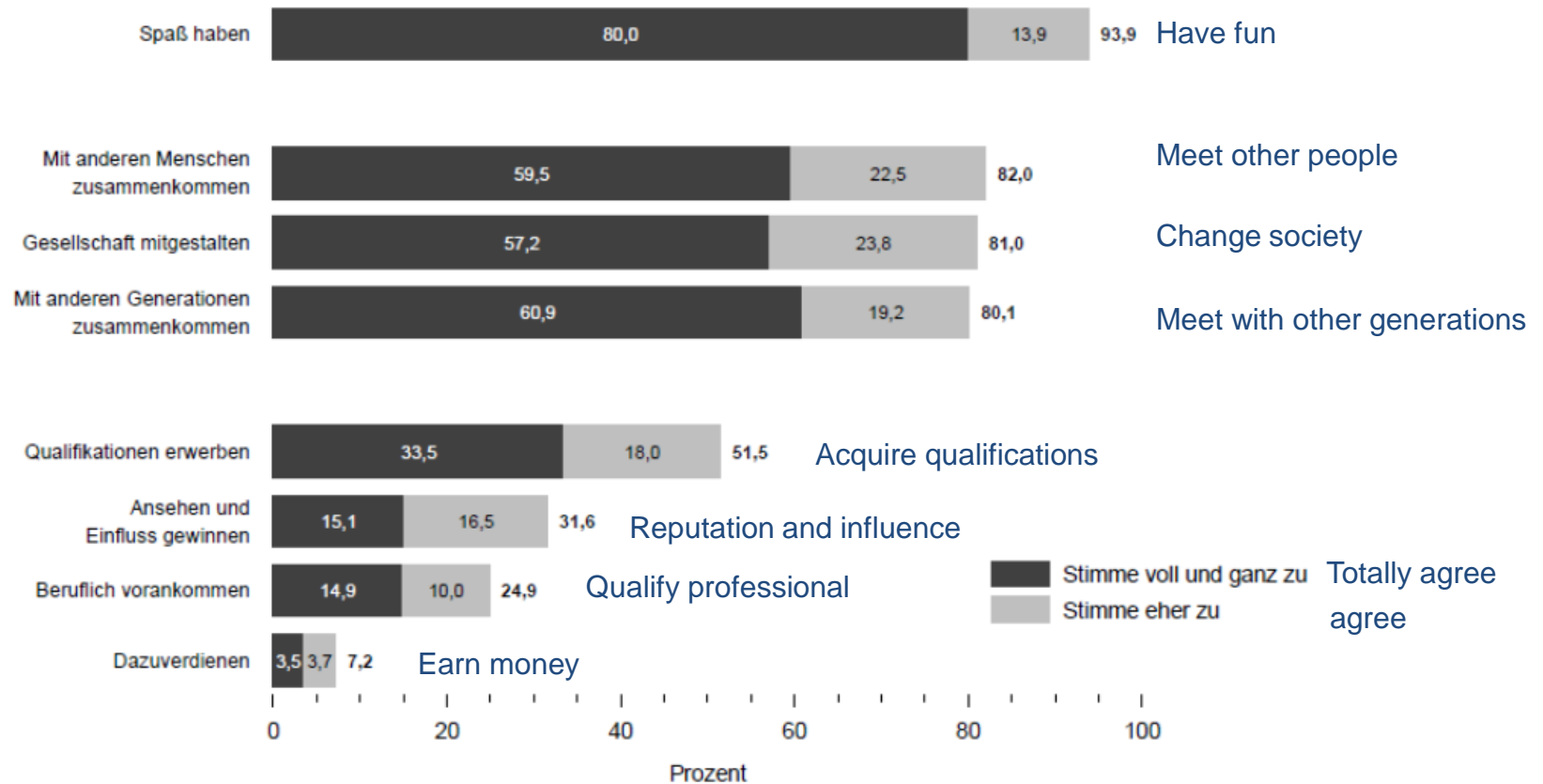
**Volunteerism:** Confirmands are more likely to become volunteers after confirmation if they:

- Are female
- Were brought up religiously
- Have parents interested in religion
- Have parents who are active as volunteers
- Had been volunteering in several fields before confirmation time
- Were intrinsically motivated at the beginning of confirmation time.

„[...] how one speaks, dances, laughs, reads what he reads, what he likes, what friends he has, etc.... All this is closely linked.“

(Pierre Bourdieu, The Fine Differences) In: Bourdieu, Pierre: The Hidden Mechanisms of Power, Hamburg 1992)

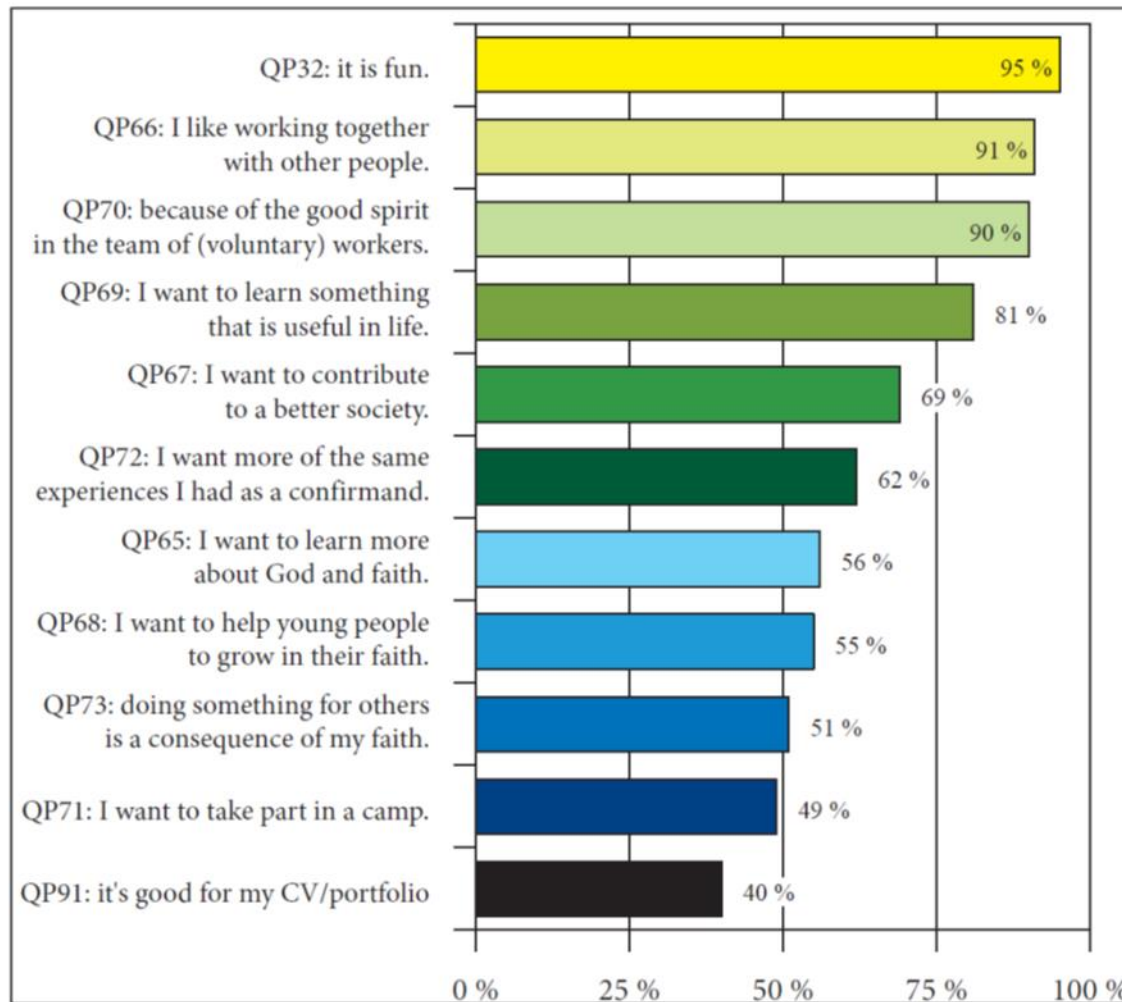
Abbildung 15-8: Angaben der freiwillig Engagierten zu den Motiven für ihr Engagement, 2014, gesamt Motives for Voluntary Engagement



Quelle: FWS 2014, gewichtet, eigene Berechnungen (DZA). Basis: Alle Engagierten (n = 11.651-12.506).

# Confirmation and Volunteerism

Figure 15: The reasons for volunteering in church or Christian youth work two years after confirmation (t<sub>3</sub>, 2015) in %



N = 493-508; the share of those with a positive response (5, 6, 7) on a scale 1 to 7 (1 = not applicable at all; 7 = totally applicable).



## Confirmation work can strengthen civil society:

- if it leads young people on a path for a general understanding about the importance of volunteer work
- if confirmation work reproduces not only the divisions of the society, but also brings society together
- if confirmation work is aware of its limitations within the broader context of non-formal education.

# Literaturangabe: „having fun“

[Dimbath, Oliver](#)

Alles aus Spass an der Freud'?

Ein Versuch ueber die Deutung von "Spass" in der Jugendarbeit.

In: [Neue Praxis](#), 35 (2005) 4, S. 389-403

# Thank You For Your Attention

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