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.
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

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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.“

Partizipation: Freiwilligensurvey 2014


Motives for Voluntary Engagement

- **Spaß haben**: 80,0% (93,9% Stimme voll und ganz zu, 13,9% Stimme eher zu)
- **Mit anderen Menschen zusammenkommen**: 59,5% (82,0%)
- **Gesellschaft mitgestalten**: 57,2% (81,0%)
- **Mit anderen Generationen zusammenkommen**: 60,9% (80,1%)
- **Qualifikationen erwerben**: 33,5% (51,5%)
- **Ansehen und Einfluss gewinnen**: 15,1% (31,6%)
- **Beruflich vorankommen**: 14,9% (24,9%)
- **Dazu verdiennen**: 3,7% (7,2%)

- Have fun
- Meet other people
- Change society
- Meet with other generations
- Acquire qualifications
- Reputation and influence
- Qualify professional
- Earn money

Figure 15: The reasons for volunteering in church or Christian youth work two years after confirmation (t3, 2015) in %

QP32: it is fun. 95%
QP66: I like working together with other people. 91%
QP70: because of the good spirit in the team of (voluntary) workers. 90%
QP69: I want to learn something that is useful in life. 81%
QP67: I want to contribute to a better society. 69%
QP72: I want more of the same experiences I had as a confirmand. 62%
QP65: I want to learn more about God and faith. 56%
QP68: I want to help young people to grow in their faith. 55%
QP73: doing something for others is a consequence of my faith. 51%
QP71: I want to take part in a camp. 49%
QP91: it’s good for my CV/portfolio. 40%

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.
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<th><strong>Dimbath, Oliver</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Alles aus Spass an der Freud'</strong>?</td>
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<td><strong>Ein Versuch über die Deutung von &quot;Spass&quot; in der Jugendarbeit.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>In: Neue Praxis, 35 (2005) 4, S. 389-403</strong></td>
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Thank You For Your Attention

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