

ERASMUS+ PARTNER IDENTIFICATION FORM

01 IDENTITY & DIGITAL PRESENCE



INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH WORK
BRAUNSCHWEIG

Municipality name: Braunschweig

Address: Eiermarkt 4-5, 38100 Braunschweig, Germany

Full Legal name: Stadt Braunschweig

Population: 254,469

Youth population: ≈50,600 aged 14–29 (19.9%); 37,262 under 18

OID: E10211385

PIC: 950905939

CIF/VAT: DE114878770

Local body and non-profit

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Digital presence:

www.braunschweig.de/leben/freizeit_sport/jugendangebote/internationale-jugendarbeit

https://www.instagram.com/jugendbuero_bs/

<https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/organisation/international-youth-work-braunschweig.21023/>

02 OUR TERRITORY & YOUTH WORK



Leading economic activities: 1. Research & development — one of Europe's most Research & Development-intensive regions 2. Automotive & engineering (Volkswagen) 3. Higher education, ICT & knowledge-based services

Territory characteristics: Second-largest city in Lower Saxony and the historic "Lion City" (Löwenstadt) of Henry the Lion, covering some 192 km². A university and research city of about 20,000 students: TU Braunschweig (founded 1745, Germany's oldest technical university, ≈15,600 students, ≈80% in STEM) and the Braunschweig University of Fine Arts (HBK). Host to the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (Germany's national metrology institute), the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) at the research airport. Foreign nationals make up 14.7% of residents (157 nationalities);

Youth work system: The Department of Children, Youth and Family comprises around 1,000 full-time staff members, with the Youth Welfare Office and the Department of Youth Work being part of it, employing alone 200 full-time staff and around 200 volunteers additional staff.

The Department of Youth Work (Jugendförderung) covers among other fields:

The Open Youth Work, which operates 30 youth centers, with different focus on AI and digital education, theatre, graffiti and breaking as well as a recording studio, rehearsal rooms and event locations – hosting their own festival called “Südstadt Open Air”;

Youth Social Work, which includes programs like the Coordination Office for Truancy, the work with NEETs and initiatives aimed at enhancing secondary school education and municipal school social work.

The Youth Office (Jugendbüro), is the central participatory contact point for young people and hosts the Youth Parliament, digital youth participation, Eurodesk Braunschweig and International Youth Work. The Youth Parliament (JuPa) has 19 members aged 14–21 and is being elected every two years by all 14–21-year-olds. Within the city it works in council committees and holds its own project budget.

03 OUR MUNICIPAL COMPASS — YOUTH WORK VALUES & PRIORITIES



- ▶ **Political participation and education**, to counter democratic disengagement and strengthen young people’s identification with Europe and the EU.
- ▶ **Resilience**, to strengthen young people’s resilience in a crisis-ridden world
- ▶ **Youth political participation**, to strengthen active participation in local political processes and in exchange with other European youth parliaments.
- ▶ **Diversity and inclusion**, to strengthen tolerance and solidarity in a changing, heterogeny society..
- ▶ **Empowerment**, to enable young people with fewer opportunities to follow their own self-determined life.
- ▶ **Sustainability**, to encourage young people to act and live sustainably and raise their awareness of this.
- ▶ **Digital youth education**, to strengthen digital competences and resilience in digital spaces in preparation of an AI driven world.

Thematic focus: Making international mobility genuinely accessible to all young people, particularly those with fewer opportunities — and embedding international youth work structurally in municipal youth promotion, alongside independent providers, schools and local politics.

04 OUR PARTNERSHIP AMBITIONS



- ▶ Build long-term, trusted partnerships in which municipalities can openly analyse the strengths and gaps in their youth work systems — and design joint projects that respond to what that analysis shows.
- ▶ Widen access to international mobility for young people with fewer opportunities — building on Braunschweig’s Erasmus+ Youth accreditation, Discover EU Inclusion and Eurodesk guidance —developing new practices and tools together with.
- ▶ Strengthen the structural place of international youth work within municipal youth work — with independent providers, schools and local politics — extending the approach developed through Europe Goes Local and the national municipal network.

Expected policy impact: The exchange is expected to contribute to the strategic development of Braunschweig’s existing youth work fields by systematically linking and embedding international mobility projects within the Erasmus+ Youth framework. Through this integration, the city’s youth structures — notably participation formats, youth centres and youth work with NEETs — will be strategically further developed in line with European Youth Work Strategy and the Europe Goes Local approach.



- ▶ **Youth Exchanges:** international group projects for young people aged 13–30, bringing together participants from different countries to live, learn and collaborate on shared topics through non-formal education – building personal growth, intercultural skills and international solidarity. Organized since the 1980s with partners worldwide – 19 youth exchanges since 2022 with partners in Poland, Ukraine, Ireland, Spain, Finland, Italy, Israel, USA, France and beyond.
- ▶ **Youth Worker Mobility:** international training opportunities for youth works, enabling cross-border learning, method exchange and professional development. Bonn process: strengthening international cooperation and improving the quality of youth work worldwide – 2024 project with Ukrainian youth workers to strengthen youth participation capacities and 2026 training on "Digital Youth Participation".
- ▶ **Discover EU inclusion:** Low-threshold, short trips across Europe for young people with fewer opportunities, offering first independent travel experiences, empowering and boosting resilience and European Affiliation – 24 groups since 2023
- ▶ **Youth Office/ Youth parliament:** Municipal structures for direct youth participation, where young people co-design local youth work priorities, shape international exchanges and gain hands-on experience in democratic processes and political advocacy.
- ▶ **Local Youth Centers:** A network of 14 municipal and 17 independent youth centres providing open, inclusive spaces for leisure, culture and non-formal learning, increasingly linked to international mobility and Erasmus+ projects to empower young people in their everyday environments.
- ▶ **Youth Social Work:** Individual case support for young people at risk of dropping out or already disengaged from school, many of whom are NEETs or from low socio-economic backgrounds – combining crisis intervention, long-term mentoring and European learning opportunities to help young people regain stability, self-efficacy and a self-determined life path. Operating in close cooperation with schools, Youth Migration Service and job entry counselling.

<https://www.braunschweig.de/leben/soziales/jugendfoerderung/jugendsozialarbeit.php>

Charter dimensions where we are strong and can offer peer learning:

- ▶ **Youth Participation:** Braunschweig built a youth parliament through a city-wide online elections for all 14–21-year-olds. The youth parliament members have seats in city council committees, a €20,000 budget they allocate themselves, and permanent rooms in the Jugendbüro. We can share exactly how we got there, which is what makes it worth learning from.
- ▶ **Alliances:** Erasmus+ Youth accreditation, exchanges since the 1980s, Eurodesk Office, Europe Goes Local, Municipal network for international youth work, plus city-funded youth associations.



Testimonials — why does going international matter for our municipality?

Young person:

"Going abroad for the first time without my parents showed me that I can handle challenges on my own and trust myself."

Youth worker:

"In our youth centre, international projects open up completely new perspectives for young people who often never leave the district. Bringing these experiences back into our daily work strengthens the centre as a place of empowerment, participation and European learning."

Policy maker / councillor:

"International youth work is not an add-on for our municipality, but a core strategy for participation and equality and social inclusion. By enabling mobility and intercultural learning for everyone, we create fairer access to opportunities and strengthen young people's sense of belonging and democratic participation."