

The Franco-German Youth Office for youth exchanges

France and Germany

DESCRIPTION

The Franco-German Youth Office (Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse (OFAJ)/Deutsch-Französische Jugendwerk (DFJW)²² was set up jointly by the French and German governments in 1963 as a **bilateral programme to improve the relations between young people in France and Germany through physical – and later also virtual – encounters** (youth exchanges). The programme funds such encounters both inside the framework of the formal education system (including IVET) and outside (non-formal education).

Since its inception, the programme has widened its scope and focus to also include participants from other countries in and outside Europe in Franco-German projects, and to target not just Franco-German relations, but also **broader issues of citizenship, tolerance, human rights and democracy**. In addition to the exchange activities, the OFAJ/DFJW has also carried out important applied **research on how to work with youth exchanges as a pedagogical tool in a learning context to achieve these outcomes**.