

- Work Aid –

For Organisers of Youth Exchanges

26th Nov. 2020



Regional Youth Council Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Real Youth Exchanges in a Pandemic – Is it possible?

Right now it is very difficult to plan and carry out a real youth exchange in a response manner. But nevertheless it is not impossible, if the circumstances are not too bad. What you need to consider and what to care about, you can see in notes in this work aid.

Long-term Preparation:

- constantly check travel regulations (for entry and also for return)
 - o how where they at the same time last year?
 - o check the websites of the Foreign Offices, like www.auswaertiges-amt.de
 - quarantine
 - tests – costs?

- check the corona-regulations of the regions and organisations involved (federal states, administrative district – often special regulations for youth work):
 - o how are they now?
 - o how have they been in the same time last year?
 - o be also self-responsible - not everything which is allowed is necessarily responsible for the people involved and for the society

- can these regulations be fulfilled? (the ones which are more strict are relevant)

- check this carefully with the partners! and best also with staff/teamers
 - o should be written down in a hygiene concept
 - o can be necessary to adjust/coordinate this with local authorities

- is the event place big enough for necessary distance between people? does it have enough rooms?

- length of the event (the shorter it is, the less can happen)

- how about extra costs that can arise? check whether you can handle these risks and ask your funders what they would pay! check this before you cause costs.
 - costs for possible extra hygiene measures? (masks, disinfectant, signs, partition walls etc.)
 - what if you need to cancel the event? How about cancellation fees?
 - what if people or the group needs to go in quarantine? How about these additional costs for accommodation, food and changed return journey?
 - maybe it is better to book more expensive flex-rates
 - maybe you can have an insurance for these financial risks
 - in every case recommended: third-party insurance for tour operators (Reiseveranstalter-Haftpflichtversicherung)

- how about youngsters who belong to the risk group or youngsters whose close contact persons (e. g. parents) belong to the risk group

- how about participants from corona-risk-zones (Risikogebiete)?

- could you change to a hybrid or digital alternative?

Short-term Preparation (when it is clear, that the exchange will take place)

- bring out the call (maybe again)
 - inform in it about the most important rules and safety measures
 - inform what happens in special cases
 - cancellation of the event
 - illness of participant short before event
 - participants do not attend although everything is booked
 - illness/infections/quarantine while the event
 - is Covid-19 covered by the (travel) health insurance?
 - recommendation to take care in the two weeks before the event

- send a detailed info pack to participants with Authorization and detailed rules
 - participants must be aware to take place at an event with special rules and safety measures
 - give emergency mobile contacts (from the teamers and from the office)
- organize a preparation meeting with all participants and their parents/care persons
- Germans should enrol in the crises provision list of the Federal Foreign Office, which is called Elefant

Hygiene Concept for the event:

- needs to follow all relevant regulations:
 - o legal regulations of the region where it takes place
 - o legal regulations of the regions of the partners
 - o regulations of the event places

you need to think about:

- screening at the beginning concerning body temperature and symptoms?
- max. number of participants and team
- rules concerning distance between people
- are special activities not allowed/not open?
- how can you reduce direct close contacts?
- which methods and activities are suitable in Corona times?
- activities best outside
- fixed seat orders with distance
- signs/pictograms
- transport/travelling
- accommodation, e. g. how many persons in one room
- serving food, eating together, e. g.
- sanitation, e. g. own rooms for each group
- cleaning concept!
- airing of rooms
- how do you carry out the rules towards the youngsters
- personal resources
- rooms for quarantine with necessary equipment? (masks, gloves, ...)

Crisis plan:

- what is being done if someone gets ill?
- how about corona-tests
- what is being done if there are one or more infections?
- -> isolation/quarantine for ill/infected youngsters
- communication strategy

This document is relying on:

- IJAB-Fachinformationen: Internationale Jugendbegegnungen in Pandemiezeiten: Eine Orientierungshilfe, 15.09.2020, <https://ijab.de/bestellservice/internationale-jugendbegegnungen-in-pandemiezeiten>
- Landesjugendring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: Reale internationale Jugendbegegnungen in Zeiten der Pandemie – was ist zu beachten? 24.07.2020, https://www.ljrmv.de/ljrmv/aktuelles/meldungen/20200723_Arbeitshilfe_Jugendbegegnungen-in-Zeiten-der-Pandemie.php

It was inspired by a workshop the editor gave for:

Engagement Global, ENSA-Programme, <https://ensa.engagement-global.de/start-en.html>

Legal Comment:

This work aid is no binding legal advice. The latter should only be claimed from examined jurists.

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