



## **Mission statement of the Federal Agency for Civic Education**

### **Preamble**

Considering Germany's experience with various forms of dictatorial rule down through its history, the Federal Republic of Germany bears a unique responsibility for firmly anchoring values such as democracy, pluralism and tolerance in people's minds. For this reason the Federal Agency for Civic Education was founded in 1952.

In its range of educational services, the Federal Agency for Civic Education focuses on basic issues regarding democratic development and changes in society – such as consequences of globalization or the ongoing evolution of a knowledge-based society.

### **Objectives and Tasks**

Our ambition centers on promoting awareness for democracy and participation in politics. The broad range of educational activities is designed to motivate people and enable them to give critical thought to political and social issues and play an active part in political life.

In order to fulfill our objectives, we develop various educational programs to provide insights into political, cultural, social and economic processes.

With our publications and educational resources we want to activate a sustainable process of civic education that creates a society based on tolerance, pluralism and placidity and foster the self-identification with our liberal democratic order.

We focus on issues of contemporary history and current political and social problems, provide background information and stimulate a debate on different political, social and academic issues.

We have also developed special services for the demands of different target groups and for key issues in citizenship education. For this purpose we are using established and modern ways of mediation and communication based on our knowledge and information society.

### **Self-conception and basic principles**

We are committed to the German constitution (Grundgesetz), human rights and the democratic political culture. Our basic principles are nonpartisanship and academic balance. We fulfill our educational purpose in sociopolitical, pedagogical and journalistic responsibility.

As an institution of political education we regularly review and verify our services and react on current challenges in the democratic community. Our service includes the fast and attentive reaction on requests from the general public and we are responsive to suggestions and criticism.

As a learning organization we improve our working procedures and results continuously and innovatively.

We consider gender-mainstreaming an important community task that we address as an organization as well as in our realm of action. On a regular basis, all our services are reviewed in regard to their efficiency and effectiveness.

All public funds entrusted to us are used in a responsible and economical way.



### **Cooperation**

To fulfill our mission we work as an interface between state, politics, educational institutions, academia and the media. Our permanent partners are the regional headquarters for Civic Education and independent organizations of Civic Education. In addition we cooperate with different educational institutions, NGOs, foundations and other societal actors.

In a permanent dialogue with our partners on our aims, issues and methods, we establish and support networks, exchange experience and generate synergy effects.

### **Internal Collaboration**

The general rules of the democratic discourse are part of the Corporate Identity of the Federal Agency for Civic Education.

Openness, the will to criticize in a fair and constructive manner, the willingness to change, to foster mutual respect and appreciation define our cooperation and work ethic.

Each employee has the opportunity to suggest improvements, to take the initiative and to actively contribute in order to ensure the successful and effective performance of the *bpb*.

In participatory processes we develop near- and medium-term objectives, which are stipulated in binding agreements. Due to a reliable information system we ensure transparency in the procedures of planning and decision-making.

A cooperative style of leadership characterizes the relationship between employer and employees. Based on a comprehensive human resources development scheme (including women's support) all employees are offered the chance of professional and personal development.

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