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# **Getting Started**

#### Welcome to

Dear fellow citizens,

Welcome to our district.

We have collected a lot of information for you in our Integreat app. Our app is intended for everyone in the district. It helps new residents and immigrants to quickly find their way around. However, it can also support you in your counselling work. Or simply be helpful in your own search for information.

The Integreat app will help you with your first steps in the district. You can also find information on legal issues, education, health, leisure and much more in our app. We also collect contacts, contact persons and lots of offers and tips. And it's already available in thirteen different languages.

We are constantly updating the Integreat app and are always trying to improve it. Do you have any suggestions or corrections? Then we look forward to hearing from you - either via the feedback function or by phone or e-mail.

We endeavour to use simple language in our content. To improve readability, in some cases we do not use gender-neutral wording.

We very much hope that we can use the app to help you settle into our district of Germersheim and in your everyday life.

We wish you a good start.

Yours









Martin Brandl Landrat des Kreis Germersheim Christoph Buttweiler Erster Kreisbeigeordneter

# Things to know about the district of Germersheim

The <u>District of Germersheim</u> is located in the southeast of Rhineland-Palatinate. The Rhine forms the eastern border with Baden-Württemberg, and to the south the Lauter River represents the border with Alsace / France.

Thanks to its favourable location, good infrastructural, economic and tourist structures have developed, as part of the <a href="Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region">Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region</a> and the cross-border region <a href="Eurodistrict Pamina">Eurodistrict Pamina</a> and proximity to the <a href="TechnologyRegion Karlsruhe">TechnologyRegion Karlsruhe</a>, the district offers many locational advantages in a diverse educational landscape. There are also many offers for leisure and recreation and interesting and beautiful places to discover.

<u>Further information</u> on history, nature, economy, agriculture and forestry, tourism.

Approximately 130,000 people live in the six municipalities and two towns belonging to the district with a total of 31 municipalities. The area of the district is about 465 km<sup>2</sup>.







# The two most populous cities are:

# 1. the City of Germersheim

approx. 20,798 people live here, the district administration of the Germersheim district is also located there.

# 2. the City of Wörth

in the south of the county with about 18,120 inhabitants.





# The local communities and cities belonging to the municipality are (number of inhabitants):

# 3. Municipality of Bellheim

- Bellheim\* (8,682)
- Knittelsheim (1,065)
- Ottersheim (1,825)
- Zeiskam (2,215)

# 4. Municipality of Hagenbach

- Berg (2,020)
- Hagenbach, Stadt\* (5,444)
- Neuburg (2,555)
- Scheibenhardt (620)

# 5. Municipality Jockgrim

- Hatzenbühl (2,832)
- Jockgrim\* (7,407)
- Neupotz (1,921)
- Rheinzabern (5,001)

# **6.** Municipality of Kandel

- Erlenbach (705)
- Freckenfeld (1,586)
- Kandel, Stadt\* (9,034)
- Minfeld (1,693)
- Steinweiler (1,954)
- Vollmersweiler (198)
- Winden (1,092)

# 7. Municipality of Lingenfeld

- Freisbach (1,146)
- Lingenfeld\* (5,758)
- Lustadt (3,406)
- Schwegenheim (3,056)
- Weingarten (1,878)
- Westheim (1,796)

# 8. Municipality of Rülzheim





- Hördt (2,596)
- Kuhardt (1,857)
- Leimersheim (2,556)
- Rülzheim\* (8,197)
- \* Seat of the municipal administration

### **About Integreat**

The Integreat app is designed to support all residents of the district of Germersheim in their everyday lives.

- · Are you new to the district of Germersheim?
- · Have you been living here for a long time but actually come from another country?
- · Do you work in counselling?
- · And you have questions?

Then Integreat can support you. And answer your questions. Here you will find important addresses and information about the district. And tips and tricks to help you find your way around. Contact persons are also listed for the various topics.

The Integreat app is divided into many different topics.

- · It helps with your first arrival in Germany
- It provides information on housing and everyday life in the district of Germersheim
- · You will find offers for leisure, culture and sport in the app

The information and leisure activities change frequently. That's why we update them constantly. There is also often something new in the "Events" section. So feel free to check back from time to time.

#### Don't have Internet access at the moment?

That's not a problem. The app can also be used offline. It updates itself automatically. As soon as your mobile phone, computer or laptop is online again.

You can use the Integreat app:

- online and offline
- in 15 languages
- · on your computer, smartphone or iPad

To the mobile version for installation on your smartphone:

- Google Play
- App Store







#### QR code for the app

#### Note on use

We put a lot of effort into compiling the content. Nevertheless, errors may occur. If you notice anything, please let us know.

We want to keep the content of the Integreat app up to date. We therefore welcome your comments or suggestions for changes. If you have any questions or suggestions about the app, please contact us at: integreat@kreis-germersheim.de

Please note: The contents of this app do not constitute a legal claim to services or offers. The decisions of the authorities or courts are decisive.

#### **Press releases**

# Integreat App - a successful model for the Germersheim district for eight years

Anyone who comes to Germany and the Germersheim district from abroad to live or work here is sure to be confronted with numerous questions: How do I find a flat, where do I register my children for school or what cultural events are there in the region? This is where a customised "Integreat App", which can be easily installed on all common smartphone devices, has been helping new immigrants for eight years now. The website can also be viewed on a computer or laptop at www.integreat.app/germersheim/de. The information is now available to people in the Germersheim district in eleven languages.

"The app is updated almost daily by the staff at our Office for Migration and Integration and filled with news and information. This means that the app remains attractive for the many new immigrants, but also for volunteers and professionals in the district, and at the same time forms an excellent basis for successful integration," says District Administrator Dr Fritz Brechtel. Head of Social Affairs Christoph Buttweiler adds: "Just how successful the app is can be seen from the number of hits over the last twelve months. During this time, the content from the district of





Germersheim has been accessed a total of 46,000 times."

Since the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine, the number of hits and downloads has increased significantly. This means that the Integreat app also relieves the burden on many local advice centres. All content is currently being revised in "simple language" to make the text even easier to understand. Arabic was also added to the language offering in the middle of last year.

# Integreat app honoured with the "Proven on site" seal

The multilingual Integreat app used in the district of Germersheim, which helps immigrants to find their way around their new home more quickly and easily, has now been awarded the "Bewährt vor Ort" seal of approval by the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB) and the Re:Form organisation. The Integreat app is used by over 100 municipalities across Germany to enable direct participation on site. The open source platform is a 3-in-1 solution: new immigrants can access the content via a smartphone app, a web browser or a brochure. Cities and districts can make all the information that is important for integration available in Integreat in multiple languages without a great deal of effort. The translation and development costs are shared equally between the partner municipalities.

The app is available for download in all popular app stores, such as Google Play. The website can also be viewed on a computer or laptop at <a href="www.integreat.app/germersheim/de">www.integreat.app/germersheim/de</a>. The information is now available for people in the Germersheim district in twelve languages.

# Review of the year

2024 was an exciting and successful year for Integreat. Together with our partner municipalities, we achieved a lot, celebrated important milestones and continued to work on advancing digital integration.

## Steady growth - more municipalities and partnerships

Integreat continues to grow: at the end of 2024, 104 cities and districts were online and active. That's five more municipalities than at the start of the year. The increase in cooperation agreements from 108 to 131 is also particularly pleasing, meaning that many municipalities are already waiting in the wings to use Integreat in the future.

### Record: over 4.5 million page views in 2024

The figures speak for themselves: with over 4.5 million page views in 2024 - around 1.5 million more than in the previous year - it is clear how important and relevant the Integreat platform is for immigrants. This success also belongs above all to the local authorities, who actively fill Integreat with life and keep the content constantly up to date.

#### Citizens' offices / Citizens' service

If you live in a town or village, there are many things to do. Sometimes you want to move house. Or you need a new passport. Or you need a notarisation. The citizens' office is responsible for all these things.

There are citizens' offices in every municipality and town in the district of Germersheim. Sometimes they are called citizens' offices. And sometimes they are called citizens' offices. They offer many services that are often needed by local people. The office where the people live is





always responsible.

#### Would you like to do one of these things?

- Are you new to the district of Germersheim and want to register? (Registration)
- You want to move within the district of Germersheim? (re-registration)
- You want to move to another place that no longer belongs to the district of Germersheim? (deregistration)
- Do you need an identity card or passport for yourself or your child?
- Have you lost your identity card?
- Do you need an official and public notarisation?

Then come to the citizens' office.

#### Have you moved within the district and need a new vehicle licence for your car?

Then you can apply for a change of vehicle licence at the Citizens' Office.

#### Do you need a certificate of good conduct for work?

Some employers require a certificate of good conduct from their employees. This states whether the person has ever committed a criminal offence. This certificate of good conduct is also issued by the Citizens' Registration Office.

#### Do you need information from a register? Or a certificate?

The staff at the Citizens' Registration Office can help you:

- they can provide information from the Federal Central Criminal Register, the Central Trade Register and the residents' register
- they issue various certificates: Registration certificates and life certificates
- · they issue licences for fishing
- they issue examination authorisation certificates in accordance with the Youth Employment Protection Act

#### Do you need anything else?

Some citizens' offices offer even more services. You can find the services on the homepage of the individual offices.

#### Do you need help from the Citizens' Office?

Then you need to make an appointment. The citizens' office can only help you with an appointment.







# Do you live in the town of Germersheim?

Then come to your town's citizens' office if you have any questions or concerns.

#### **Germersheim Town Council**

## Bürgerbüro

**Q** Kolpingsplatz 3, 76726 Germersheim

@info@germersheim.eu

+4972749600

https://www.germersheim.eu/

# **Contact persons**

# Andrea Krey | Sozialpädagogische Betreuung der Asylbewerber, Seniorenarbeit

**Q** Kolpingsplatz 3, 76726 Germersheim

@akrey@germersheim.eu

**49 (0) 7274960246** 

https://www.germersheim.eu/

# Julia Liebel | Leistungen nach dem AsylbLG

**Q** Kolpingsplatz 3, 76726 Germersheim

@julia.liebel@germersheim.eu

**49** (0) 7274960292

https://www.germersheim.eu/

# Sabrina Schlawjinski | Unterbringung Landesaufnahmegesetz

**♀** Kolpingsplatz 3, 76726 Germersheim

@sabrina.schlawjinski@germersheim.eu

**49** (0) 7274960288

https://www.germersheim.eu/

**Opening hours:** 





Monday to Friday, 08:30 to 12:00h

Tuesday, 13:45 to 16:00h

Thursday, 13:45 - 18:00h



# Do you live in the town of Wörth?

Then come to the citizens' office in your town if you have any questions or concerns.

# Bürgerbüro

- **Q** Mozartstraße 2, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- @webmaster@woerth.de
- **49 (0) 72711310**
- https://www.woerth.de/sv\_woerth/Rathaus%20&%20Pol...

# **Contact persons**

# Jan Philipp Gerhardt | Ordnungs- und Sozialverwaltung: Abteilungsleitung

- **♀** Mozartstraße 2, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- @jan.gerhardt@woerth.de
- **4**+49 (0) 7271131314
- https://www.woerth.de/sv\_woerth/Rathaus%20&%20Pol...

# Thomas Baron | Soziale Hilfen, Obdachlose

- **Q** Mozartstraße 2, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- @thomas.baron@woerth.de
- **4**+49 (0) 7271131305
- https://www.woerth.de/sv\_woerth/Rathaus%20&%20Pol...





# **Ulrike Rüffel | Migration, Integration, Sozialer Dienst**

**♀** Mozartstraße 2, 76744 Wörth am Rhein

@ulrike.rueffel@woerth.de

**49** (0) 7271131111

https://www.woerth.de/sv\_woerth/Rathaus%20&%20Pol...

# **Christina Marz | Leistungen an Asylbewerber**

**Q** Mozartstraße 2, 76744 Wörth am Rhein

@christina.marz@woerth.de

<u>+49 (0) 7271131117</u>

https://www.woerth.de/sv\_woerth/Rathaus%20&%20Pol...

## Opening hours:

Monday, 08:30 - 12:00h and 14:30 - 16:00h

Tuesday, 08:30 - 12:00h

Closed on Wednesdays

Thursday, 08:30 - 12:00h and 14:30 - 18:00h

Friday, 08:30 - 12:00h



# Do you live in the municipality of Bellheim?

Then come to the citizens' office of your municipality if you have any questions or concerns.

# Bürgerbüro

Schubertstraße 18, 76756 Bellheim

@verbandsgemeinde@vg-bellheim.de

**4**+49 (0) 727270080

https://www.bellheim.de/vg\_bellheim/





# Fabio Blattmann | Ansprechperson Asyl

Schubertstraße 18, 76756 Bellheim

@f.blattmann@vg-bellheim.de

+49 (0) 72727008513

https://www.bellheim.de/vg\_bellheim/

# Opening hours:

Monday and Thursday, 08:00 - 12:30h and 14:00 - 16:00h

Tuesday closed

Wednesday, 08:00 - 12:30 and 14:00 - 18:00

Friday, 08:00 - 12:30h



# Do you live in the municipality of Hagenbach?

Then come to the citizens' office of your municipality if you have any questions or concerns.

# Hagenbach municipal administration

# Bürgerbüro

QLudwigstraße 20, 76767 Hagenbach

@info@vg-hagenbach.de

**4**+49 (0) 72739337000

https://www.vg-hagenbach.de/buergerservice/fachbe...

### Opening hours:

Monday, 08:00 - 12:00h

Tuesday and Wednesday, 08:00 - 12:00h and 14:30 - 16:30h

Thursday, 08:00 - 12:00h and 14:30 - 18:00h





Friday, 08:00 - 12:30h

Further appointments by arrangement

You can find some forms online at the Citizens' Office



# Do you live in the municipality of Jockgrim?

Then come to the citizens' office of your municipality if you have any questions or concerns.

# Jockgrim municipal administration

# Bürgerbüro

- **Q**<u>Untere Buchstraße 22, 76751 Jockgrim</u>
- @info@vg-jockgrim.de
- **4**+49 (0) 72715990
- https://www.vg-jockgrim.de/Verwaltung-Rat/Unser-S...

### Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 08:30 - 12:00h

Monday, 14:00 - 18:00h

Thursday, 14:00 - 16:00h

Further appointments outside opening hours by arrangement



# Do you live in the municipality of Kandel?





# Then come to the citizens' office of your municipality if you have any questions or concerns.

# **Municipal administration Kandel**

# Bürgerbüro

- **Q** Gartenstraße 8, 76870 Kandel
- @info@vg-kandel.de
- **4**+49 (0) 72759600
- https://www.vg-kandel.de/vg\_kandel/Verwaltung/B%C...

# Mike Schönlaub | Bürgerbüro - Fachbereichsleiter

- **Q** Gartenstraße 8, 76870 Kandel
- @Mike.Schoenlaub@vg-kandel.de
- +49 (0) 7275960133
- https://www.vg-kandel.de/vg\_kandel/Verwaltung/B%C...

# Danika Pflüger | Unterbringung und Leistungen nach dem AsylbLG

- **Q** Gartenstraße 8, 76870 Kandel
- @danika.pflueger@vg-kandel.de
- <u>+49 (0) 7275960127</u>
- https://www.vg-kandel.de/vg\_kandel/Verwaltung/B%C...

### Opening hours:

Monday, 08:00 - 12:00h

Tuesday, 08:00 - 12:00h and 13:30 - 16:00h

Wednesday to Friday by appointment only



Do you live in the municipality of Lingenfeld?





# Then come to the citizens' office of your municipality if you have any questions or concerns.

# **Municipal administration Lingenfeld**

# Bürgerbüro

Phauptstraße 60, 67360 Lingenfeld

@info@vg-lingenfeld.de

**4**+4<u>9 (0) 63445090</u>

https://www.vg-lingenfeld.de/rathaus-politik/buer...

# **Martina Baumann | Telefonzentrale**

Phauptstraße 60, 67360 Lingenfeld

@martina.baumann@vg-lingenfeld.de

+49 (0) 6344509179

https://www.vg-lingenfeld.de/rathaus-politik/buer...

# Opening hours:

Monday and Tuesday, 08:00 - 12:00h and 14:00 - 16:00h

Wednesday, 08:00 - 12:00h and 14:00 - 18:00h

Thursday, 08:00 - 12:00h

Friday, 08:00 - 13:00h



# Do you live in the municipality of Rülzheim?

Then come to the citizens' office of your municipality if you have any questions or concerns.

**Rülzheim Municipal Administration** 





## Bürgerbüro

- Am Deutschordensplatz 1, 76761 Rülzheim
- @info@ruelzheim.de
- <u>+49 (0) 727270020</u>
- https://www.ruelzheim.de/vg\_ruelzheim/de/

## Franziska Ossig | Sozialamt, Wohnraumverwaltung

- Am Deutschordensplatz 1, 76761 Rülzheim
- @f.ossig@ruelzheim.de
- **49** (0) 727270021503
- https://www.ruelzheim.de/vg\_ruelzheim/de/Suche/B%...

## Opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 08:30 - 12:00h

Tuesday, 08:30 - 12:00h and 14:00 - 16:30h

Thursday, 08:30 - 12:00h and 14:00 - 18:00h

#### Citizens' consultation

Do you live in the district of Germersheim and have problems or want to make a complaint? Then you have the opportunity to address these important issues at a citizens' consultation. Important questions can also be asked there.

The Citizens' Consultation is open to everyone - regardless of their residence status.

## Your contact persons in the district of Germersheim

Would you like to talk to our District Administrator Mr Martin Brandl?

Then make an appointment via:

### Frau Adam | Büro Landrat

- **Q**Luitpoldplatz 1, 76726 Germersheim
- @h.adam@kreis-germersheim.de
- +49 (0) 727453190
- https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/





### City plans and maps

Maps and detailed views can be found on the mobility portal.

# **Daily Life**

## Living

House hunting, social housing and housing benefit

# Finding accommodation and financial support

#### Are you looking for a flat?

The best place to look is on the Internet or in the local newspapers.

#### Internet

- https://www.immonet.de/wohnung-suchen.html
- https://www.wg-gesucht.de/
- https://www.immobilienscout24.de
- https://www.immowelt.de/suche/wohnungen
- https://www.wohnungsboerse.net
- https://www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de/s-immobilien/wo...

## Local newspapers

Flats are advertised here, especially at weekends.

You can look in the following newspapers, for example:

- Die Rheinpfalz / Immobilienmarkt or https://immo.rheinpfalz.de/mieten/germersheim
- · Das Wochenblatt (free of charge)
- Der Kurier (free of charge)

### Social housing

Some people cannot afford the rent for a normal flat. There is social housing for them. These flats are subsidised by the state. Therefore the rents are not so high. There is social housing in many towns and municipalities. However, there is too little social housing. This means that not everyone gets social housing, even if they need it.

The Budenheld housing exchange can help you find social housing.

If you want social housing, you have to submit an application to the housing office. You also have to state how much you earn.





#### Who can get social housing?

Only people with a certificate of eligibility for social housing are eligible for social housing. This licence can be applied for at the local authority. You can obtain further information from the administration of your municipality.

#### Do you have the right to a housing entitlement certificate?

There is an income limit for the housing entitlement certificate. Anyone who is below the limit and earns less money per month can obtain a Wohnberechtigungsschein.

<u>Here</u> you can check whether you are below the income limit. You can use the WBS calculator to work out whether you can get a certificate of eligibility.

## **Housing benefit**

If people have little money to pay their rent, the state can help. If you need support, you can apply for housing benefit. With housing benefit, the state pays part of the rent for a flat or the costs of a home. If the housing benefit is approved, the federal and state governments each pay half of the subsidy.

## Who receives housing benefit?

Housing benefit is only available to people who do not receive other benefits such as social benefit or unemployment benefit II. These benefits are called transfer benefits. The right to housing benefit is enshrined in law. Anyone can apply for housing benefit. This application will then be reviewed.

#### Where do I have to submit my application for housing benefit?

An application for housing benefit can be submitted to these offices:

- Housing benefit office of the district administration
- at the responsible municipal administration/association administration

There is a form for the application. You must also submit documents that show that you need support.

# **Housing Benefit Plus**

Housing benefit was revised on 1 January 2023. Since then, there has been Housing Benefit Plus. With this new Housing Benefit Plus, heating costs are also included in the calculation. Heating costs have risen sharply in recent years.

Many people now receive housing benefit even if they were not previously entitled to it. It may therefore be worth making an application now.

More information on Housing Benefit Plus can be found at here

**Click here** for the Housing Benefit Plus calculator





#### Would you like more information on housing benefit and Housing Benefit Plus?

Then take a look here (in various languages): German Trade Union Federation: Housing benefit and more. Information on the new housing benefit regulations in German, English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Farsi, French, Polish, Romanian, Turkish and Pashto

### Ventilation / heating / electricity

#### Ventilation and heating

It is important to ventilate and heat properly. This can improve the air in the room. And mould will not form.

You can find detailed information and helpful tips here:

- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
- Federal Environment Agency
- Consumer advice centre (for questions about heating)
- WWF

# **Electricity**

You need electricity for many things in your flat or house. There are various providers for this. They provide the electricity. To do this, you have to sign a contract with an electricity provider. If the cost of electricity is very high, it is always worth comparing prices. Anyone in Germany can change their electricity provider if the costs are too high. If you check your contract and compare providers, you can save a lot of money.

Anyone who has never changed their electricity provider is automatically in the basic supply of the local utility company. This is often expensive. A comparison is then particularly worthwhile.

#### Would you like to change your electricity provider?

Switching to another provider is very quick. It usually only takes a few minutes.

Before you switch, you need to know these things:

- · How much electricity do you use in a year?
- · Which electricity provider are you currently with?
- What electricity price are you currently paying?

With this information, you can check whether it is worth switching to another provider. There are various portals that compare electricity prices. The best known are

- SVerivox
- Check24
- Finanztip





You can also find more information on the Finanztip website. You can also check the offers there. The offers from Verivox and Check24 are checked simultaneously. The results are checked according to the consumer-friendly Finanztip criteria. The recommendations there are independent.

# Ausweise und Passbilder: Änderungen ab Mai 2025

From May 2025, there will be new rules for ID documents and passport photos in Germany. Here is a simple explanation of the most important points:

# Passport photos will only be digital:

- Passport photos for ID cards may no longer be brought on paper.
- They must be taken digitally and sent directly to the authorities.

#### This works.

- at special photo machines at the Citizens' Registration Office (cost: approx. 6 euros).
- · at authorised photographers and drugstores.

#### The pictures are stored in encrypted form:

- The authorities can retrieve the image online using a special code.
- This protects against identity theft and makes ID cards more secure.

#### These ID documents are affected:

- Passport
- identity card
- · Electronic residence permit
- · Travel documents

#### **Further information:**

- From May 2025, ID cards may also be sent home by post.
- It will be possible to receive e-mail reminders shortly before the card expires.
- Simple change of address:
   Sending a security sticker to be stuck into the ID card itself.
- Since January 2024, children aged 6 and over must also provide fingerprints, there are only passports with a chip.

#### Save energy

### **Energy and the environment**

Due to the Ukraine crisis, energy prices have risen sharply almost everywhere. Many people are very worried about how they will be able to pay the higher costs.

Gas and electricity are needed in many areas of everyday life. Various appliances need electricity. You need electricity for cooking, for the washing machine and for your mobile phone. Some appliances consume more than others. If you buy new appliances, you should pay attention to this.





Many appliances still need electricity even when they are actually switched off (standby mode). Sockets for several plugs that can be switched off can help here.

Many houses are heated by gas. Money often has to be paid to the supplier in advance. Billing takes place after a year. Sometimes money has to be paid in arrears or you get money back. This depends on how much gas you have used.

If electricity and gas are expensive, you should save money every month. Then you will end up with enough money for the additional payment.

So if you use less energy, you save money. It's also good for the environment.

You can find tips on how to heat, ventilate and save energy properly here:

- on the website of the state of Lower Saxony
- at the consumer advice centre NRW
- on the general homepage of the consumer advice centre energy advice service
- on the flyer <u>Energiesparen ganz einfach (4).pdf</u> from the climate protection managers in the Germersheim district

Water is mainly used in the bathroom. But also in the kitchen, for cooking and washing up. Saving water pays off. You will then have to pay less for water, waste water and the energy used to heat the water.

#### Tips for saving water:

- · Install an energy-saving shower head
- · Take a shower instead of a bath
- · Repair dripping taps
- · Install a flush stop button in the toilet.

You can find more tips and useful information at the consumer advice centre. Or in the handout Energiepreiskrise agarp.pdf from the Working Group of Advisory Councils for Migration and Integration.

# Save electricity costs

You need electricity for many things in your flat or house. There are various providers for this. They provide the electricity. To do this, you have to sign a contract with an electricity provider. If the cost of electricity is very high, it is always worth comparing prices. Anyone in Germany can change their electricity provider if the costs are too high. If you check your contract and compare providers, you can save a lot of money.

You can find more information on switching electricity providers here in our app

# **Buying new appliances**

When buying new appliances, you should always check the energy label. It shows how efficient the new appliance is. You will find the energy label on many products, such as light bulbs, washing machines, televisions and heaters.





You can compare appliances easily if you pay attention to these things:

- Energy efficiency class (appliances that are energy efficient help to save several hundred euros per year)
- Information on electricity and water consumption
- Volume

There is an app for the energy label. It helps to compare selected products with each other. The app provides further information on the efficient use of appliances. It is available free of charge in German and English in <u>Google Play</u> and the Apple <u>App Store</u>.

- Further tips on saving energy can be found on the homepage of the <u>Germersheim district</u> <u>administration</u>
- The federal government also provides information and tips on saving energy

#### Waste and resources

#### Waste separation

In Germany, waste is separated by type. The aim is to reuse as many materials as possible (recycling). This also allows resources to be utilised. Only waste that cannot be recycled remains. This residual waste is incinerated in large waste-to-energy plants. This generates energy.

#### There are different waste bins in the district of Germersheim:

- · Green paper bin: for paper and cardboard
- Grey bin: for residual waste (e.g. nappies, cigarettes, broken shoes)
- Brown organic waste bin: for vegetable waste, food waste and garden waste ( further information on the organic waste bin)
- Yellow bag: packaging made of plastic, composite material (e.g. milk cartons, fruit juice cartons) and metal
- Glass box: for glass (e.g. bottles)
- Anything that is too toxic for residual waste and bulky waste is accepted at the problem waste collection centre in Rülzheim.
- Hazardous waste and recyclable materials can be handed in at recycling collection centres.
- Bulky waste: Waste that is too large for the rubbish bin or cannot be disposed of there. Bulky waste can be collected free of charge twice a year.
  - Click here for the form

## Further information on waste separation:





#### **Abfallwirtschaft**

# **♀**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim

https://www.abfallwirtschaft-germersheim.de/anspr...

# ©Opening hours

Mon to Fri, 08:30 to 12:00h

Tue, 13:30 to 16:00h

Thu, 13:30 to 18:00h

#### and in several languages:

Turkish /Türkçe

French / français

ىسراف / Farsi

**English / Englisch** 

German / Deutsch

<u> مَى برعلا / Arabic</u>

Ukrainian / Українська

# **Conserve resources**

Water, gas and electricity should only be used when they are actually needed. Responsible use of these resources should be the goal for everyone.

#### Telephone, internet, media

#### Radio and media

### Radio and media

A series of foreign-language programmes for television and radio enables interested people to find out about events and news from their home country as well as from Germany. Some internet addresses are listed here.

- Deutschlandfunk news in simple language
- News in simple language
- Refugee Radio, radio programme by Funkhaus Europa (WDR and NDR) in Arabic and English
- <u>WDRforyou</u> WDR information and entertainment in German, English, Arabic and Farsi





 COSMO Radio "The Sound of the World"- International radio programme from WDR, Radio Bremen and rbb

# Free WiFi / WLAN hotspots in the district

# **Public WLAN hotspots in the district of Germersheim**

Sometimes you are travelling and need the internet. But you've used up your own data volume. Or you haven't topped up your mobile phone card. Then you can surf the internet for free at various locations in the Germersheim district.

These locations are called hotspots. You can log on there with your own device. Whether with a mobile phone or a laptop. You can connect to the Internet free of charge at all hotspots.

# **City of Germersheim**

GER-WLAN is a free service for Germersheim. Citizens, students and tourists can use it here:

- Town hall, Kolpingplatz 3
- Nardiniplatz (half): through Stadthaus 1st floor
- Paradeplatz
- Luitpoldplatz
- Europaplatz
- · Community centre,
- Scented terrace

#### Would you like to use the WLAN?

Then register here

### City of Wörth

You do not need to register. You just have to accept the terms of use.

There is a youth protection filter. It prevents children and young people from accessing adult sites.

The network supports the current radio frequencies in the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz band.

The city council's free WLAN offer is available here:

#### Wörth district: FreeWiFi.Wörth

- Wörth town hall and building administration
- · Wörth public library
- · Festival hall Wörth
- Wörth indoor swimming pool





- Wörth fire brigade
- · Bienwaldhalle

#### Maximiliansau district: FreeWiFi.Maximiliansau

- · Community centre
- Tulla Hall
- Rhine Hall

#### Local district of Schaidt: FreeWiFi.Schaidt

- · Community centre
- Sports hall

## Büchelberg district (FreeWifi.Büchelberg)

Multi-purpose hall

## City of Kandel

· Forest swimming pool

Operation is simple. You do not have to register. No password is required. All you have to do is select the WLAN SSID "sorglosinternet"

## Mobile phone

### Mobile phone contracts

There are two different mobile phone contracts in Germany:

- 1. Prepaid contract: the contract has no fixed term. This means you can cancel it at any time
- 2. Fixed-term contract: here there is a minimum contract term. This contract is automatically renewed if it is not cancelled in writing. The cancellation periods must be observed.

You can find more information on contract renewal at here.

#### 10 important questions when concluding a contract:

- How high is the basic fee? Does the fee increase after a certain period of time?
- Is there a minimum monthly turnover (minimum costs per month)?
- How long is the contract for (e.g. 12 or 24 months)?
- If I do not cancel the contract, will it be automatically renewed?
- When do I have to cancel if I don't want to extend the contract?
- How much does it cost to set up, switch and deactivate?
- What is the billing cycle? Do I have to pay for every minute or part thereof?





- How much does a minute cost (external/own network)?
- How much does a mobile phone with a contract cost and how much does a mobile phone without a contract cost?
- How much does Internet cost?
- How much do international calls cost?

# Signing contracts

Particularly important: You should not sign a contract that you do not understand or cannot read. There is a risk that you will have to pay something. It is sometimes very difficult to get this cancelled. It is always best to check and compare several offers so that you can make a decision at your leisure. Nobody should be pressurised into signing anything.

If you have problems with contracts, bills and reminders, the <u>consumer advice centre</u> can provide advice and help.

#### Help with problems with contracts and invoices

#### The Rhineland-Palatinate Consumer Advice Centre

# Do you have problems with contracts? Are you unable to pay your bills? Have you received a reminder?

If you have problems with contracts and payments, the consumer advice centre can help you. They can provide you with information and advice.

The consumer advice centre can help you if:

- you have problems with contracts for telephone, internet and television
- if you have concluded a contract at the front door
- · if you have concluded a contract on the Internet
- with invoices and reminders
- · if you have received a copyright warning
- if you have questions about banks and current accounts
- · if you have questions about health insurance and insurance companies
- · if you have questions about food
- if you have questions about the licence fee
- if you have questions about <u>smartphones, apps, internet, data protection</u> (in different languages)
- if you have questions about heating, saving electricity
- for payment problems
- for questions about bills from the electricity supplier

Counselling is provided exclusively in German.





# Consumer advice centre Rhineland-Palatinate, advice centre Germersheim

# Beratungsstützpunkt Germersheim

QLuitpoldplatz 1, 76726 Germersheim

@germersheim@vz-rlp.de

+49 (0) 727453172

https://www.verbraucherzentrale-rlp.de/beratungss...

Thursday, 10:00h to 15:00h

Personal counselling is possible. However, you will need to make an appointment beforehand. You can also get advice in writing (by letter or e-mail) or on the phone. Or by video. You also need an appointment for a telephone or video consultation.

#### **Current Account (Girokonto)**

A current account (Girokonto) is an account for people who want to make payments via a bank.

A current account (Girokonto) offers the following options:

- · transfer money
- Receive cashless payments (disbursements from agencies/authorities/social benefits are
  often cashless, meaning they are transferred directly to a personal current account
  (Girokonto)
- set up standing orders
- Use direct debit services
- · Cash a cheque, make cashless payments with an EC/Maestro card
- · withdraw money at the bank counter or an ATM
- · Print your bank statements

#### Opening an account

To open an account, an appointment must be made with the desired bank. For this purpose, one of the legitimation papers should be brought along:

- · Proof of arrival
- Residence permit
- ID
- Registration certificate

After opening an account, customers receive an EC card with a four-digit PIN code. This PIN code is used for cashless payments and for cash withdrawals from ATMs.





The EC card must be signed on the back. The PIN code should be kept separate from the EC card. If the PIN code is entered incorrectly three times at the ATM, the EC card is withdrawn and blocked. In this case, the person concerned must contact the relevant bank.

If the EC card is lost or stolen, it should be blocked immediately. The blocking is free of charge and available around the clock at  $\boxed{116116}$ . Callers only have to state their bank code and account number. A new EC card can then be issued at the bank.

To avoid unnecessary costs, cash is best withdrawn at an ATM of the bank where the account was opened. Withdrawal here costs nothing.

Different banks offer checking accounts with different conditions, so it is important to find out about the monthly account management fees and the services offered by each bank.

#### Taxes and tax returns

Everyone who works in Germany receives money. This is called income. In Germany, everyone has to pay taxes on their income. There are two types of income:

- 1. gross income: This is the money before taxes are deducted.
- 2. net income: This is the money after taxes have been deducted.

If you are employed, you receive your money (salary) from your employer. Taxes have already been deducted. This is called net income.

Self-employed people have to pay tax on their income themselves. You only pay tax after you have earned your income.

#### Tax identification number

The tax ID is a number with 11 digits. This number is important for income tax purposes. Your employer needs your tax ID number.

#### Do you not know your number?

You can ask the registration office for your number at any time. You must do this in person. Or you can ask in writing (by post or e-mail) at the Federal Tax Office. They will give you your tax number.

### Tax return

#### Do you need help with your tax return?

In many places there are organisations that can help. They are called income tax help organisations. The **Example 1** Lohnsteuerberatungsverbund can also help you.

#### Do you have further questions about your tax return?

Then the local tax office can help you.





# Services provided by the Speyer-Germersheim Service Centre (tax office)

- You can get general information about taxes.
- · There are forms and information material, such as tax return forms and brochures
- You can submit applications for a wage tax reduction. These are the electronic wage tax deduction features (ELStAM).
- Tax returns and receipts can be submitted. Important: The receipts are not processed or checked directly!
- · You can submit applications for certificates.
- · Requests for amendments and objections are accepted and recorded in writing.

#### **Finanzamt - Servicecenter Germersheim**

**♀**Königsplatz 8, 76726 Germersheim

**4**+49 (0) 623260170

https://fa-speyer-germersheim.rlp.de/

## Opening hours

Monday, 08:00 to 16:00 and Thursday, 08:00 - 18:00

#### Third-party liability insurances

Anyone who causes damage to a person in Germany - even unintentionally - must pay damages according to the law, and in an unlimited amount. Compensation for damages is a financial indemnity for damages suffered. This applies to personal injury, damage to property and financial losses of a private nature - if you cause a traffic accident, for example, or your child accidentally breaks a window while playing with a ball.

In Germany, it is possible to take out personal liability insurance that pays for these damages for the family/children. This is a voluntary insurance, but it is strongly recommended. If there is no insurance, the costs must be paid by the insured in the event of damage.

- Information from the Consumer Advice Centre on the subject of third-party liability insurance
- More information on <u>insurance companies</u>.
- Overview of the BAMF on the <u>extra page "Banks and Insurances"</u>.

### **Shopping (clothes, furniture, food)**

# **Shopping**

# Clothing, crockery, furniture, sports and electrical equipment

Do you have little money for clothes and household items?





Then there are various ways to buy cheaper. This can save you money. There are many organisations that support people with little money.

You can find clothes, things for your home and much more here:

- in clothing stores
- · in social department stores
- · at flea markets
- in local newspapers (for example in the "clearance market" section of the Rheinpfalz Zeitung)
- online (on eBay and eBay classifieds, in the Vinted app and many more)

In all these places, you can buy clothes and household items that other people have donated. Or that they want to sell on. These are things that others no longer need and want to pass on (second-hand).

## Social department stores and clothing stores



### **Caritas goods basket Germersheim**

Here you can find clothes, crockery and furniture that cost little

# Giuseppe Spano | Caritas Warenkorb Germersheim

- Waldstraße 5e, 76726 Germersheim
- @warenkorb.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de
- <u>+49 (0) 72749738440</u>
- https://www.caritas.de/adressen/st.-christophorus...

### Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 9:00 - 13:00h and 14:00 - 17:00h

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 14:00 - 17:00h

### **Child Protection Association**

### Children's clothes shop

Here you can find everything for children: clothes, toys and much more for little money

# Roswitha Wiersch | Kinderkleiderladen

- **Q** Waldstraße 5, 76726 Germersheim
- @info@kinderschutzbund-germersheim.de





**4**+49 (0) 72748847

https://www.caritas.de/adressen/st.-christophorus...

# Opening hours:

Monday, 9:30 - 11:30h and Wednesday, 15:00 - 17:00h

## DRK clothing store - "All sorts of things for everyone"

#### Clothes chamber

Here you can find things for the household, clothes and toys. You need a benefit certificate. This is proof that you have little money. You can use this to shop in the clothing store.

# Rosi | DRK Kleiderkammer - "Allerlei für Jedermann"

Schwanenweg 7, 76744 Wörth am Rhein

+49 (0) 72713489

**49** (0) 17631747626

https://drk-woerth.beepworld.de/aktuelles.htm

## Bellheim clothing centre

There are clothes here. You need an authorisation certificate. This certificate shows that you have little money and are dependent on support.

#### Kleiderstube Bellheim

Phauptstraße 121, 76756 Bellheim

# Opening hours:

Monday, 15:00 - 17:00h and Friday, 11:00 - 16:00h

#### Hagenbach donation centre

Here you can find second-hand clothes

# Hagenbacher Spendenkammer

Am Stadtrand 1, 76767 Hagenbach

@info@hagenbacherspendenkammer.de

**49** (0) 15257654582

https://www.hagenbacherspendenkammer.de/home.html





3rd floor above the nursery "Kinderland" (important: there is no lift)

Thursday, 10:00 - 11:30h

1st Saturday of the month, 10:00 - 11:30h

### Would you like to donate something?

Then drop by during opening hours. Please do not drop off any donations outside opening hours. These will be disposed of for security reasons.

Please call in advance and ask which donations are needed.

**\**0152/57654582

## Kandel clothing store

# Susi Dueborgdioe | Kleiderkammer VG Kandel

**Q** Gartenstraße 6, 76870 Kandel

+49 (0) 15904240186

https://www.vg-kandel.de/vg\_kandel/Bildung%20&%20...

### Opening hours:

Monday, 13:30 to 15:30h

Wednesday, 09:30 to 11:30h

#### Flea markets and bazaars

In spring and autumn there are many flea markets and bazaars in the district of Germersheim. People sell second-hand toys or clothes there for little money.

You can find an overview of the flea markets and bazaars in the district of Germersheim and beyond at 
here

#### **Food**

There are various ways to buy food in Germany. There are many discounters (Aldi, Lidl, Netto, Penny and others) where you can buy cheaper. Supermarkets are usually a little more expensive. In both you will find all the products you could possibly need. There are also smaller international supermarkets in many cities. Halal food is mainly found in Turkish and Arabic supermarkets. There are also weekly markets. However, food is often more expensive there.





There are also food banks in Germany. They collect food from supermarkets and discounters. Otherwise it would be thrown away. If they are still good, the food banks pass them on to people who need them. Many volunteers, donors and sponsors make this possible. A lot of the food at the food bank costs no money at all. For some, you have to pay a small amount of money.

There are certain registration times for people who want to come to the Tafel for the first time. After this registration, it is possible to get food during the distribution times. You will need an ID card or the AKN.

#### Food at the food banks

#### Germersheimer Tafel e.V.



#### **Germersheimer Tafel**

You can get food here. However, you need proof that you are dependent on help.

#### **Germersheimer Tafel**

- **Q** Waldstraße 15, 76726 Germ Germersheim
- @tafel.germersheim@t-online.de
- **4**+49 (0) 72749498499
- https://tafel-germersheim.de/
- Registration times:

Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:30h

#### Distribution times:

Wednesday, 13:00 - 14:00h and Friday, 11:30 - 12:30h

#### Wörther Tafel e.V.



#### Wörther Tafel

You can get food here. However, you need proof that you are dependent on help.

#### Wörther Tafel

In den Niederwiesen 7, 76744 Wörth am Rhein

@woerther.tafel@gmx.de





#### +49 (0) 1732804310

https://www.tafel-woerth.de/

©Registration:

Wednesday, from 10:00h

Thursday, from 12:00h

!! The distribution takes place on Wednesday and Thursday at the times mentioned below !!!

Desired distribution times:

Wednesday, 11:00 to 13:00h

Thursday, 12:00 to 16:00h

## Mobility

Many places in your home town and the surrounding area can be easily reached by public transport. There are direct train connections to many towns in the surrounding area (for example to Mannheim, Speyer, Landau, Ludwigshafen and Karlsruhe). The railway stations have further transport connections.

## By public transport

To get to your destination, you can use public transport such as buses and trains. Travelling without a ticket, known as fare dodging, is punishable by a heavy fine! A valid ticket is therefore essential for every journey.

#### **Timetables and tickets**

- VRN the transport association for Rhine-Neckar (all journeys within Rhineland-Palatinate)
- Deutsche Bahn all train connections at a glance (also as an app in the db Navigator)
- KVV Karlsruher Verkehrsverbund (all journeys in Baden-Württemberg)
- Regiomove (KVV) an app to easily find the best route and the right means of transport
- Google Maps you can easily find places here

#### By bike

A healthy, inexpensive and environmentally friendly alternative for getting from A to B is a bicycle. This is much cheaper in the long term than travelling by public transport.

## Some important traffic rules for cyclists:

Always ride on the right-hand side of the road





- Do not ride next to each other, but behind each other
- If there is a cycle path, it must be used (always on the right-hand side of the road in the direction of travel)
- · Only children up to the age of 11 may use the footpaths by bike
- It is forbidden to use a mobile phone on a bicycle
- Always ride with bicycle lights on at dusk or in the dark. Switch on the lights at the latest when the street lights are on.

Traffic rules for cyclists in several languages can be found here:

German (pdf)

English (pdf)

French (pdf)

Arabic (pdf)

Farsi (pdf)

## **Equipment**

When buying a bicycle, the following equipment should be available to ensure road safety:

- · Front and rear lights
- · Reflector front and rear
- Reflectors in the spokes (2 per wheel)
- Reflectors on the pedals
- Bell
- · Two independent brakes

If the bicycle is not roadworthy, a fine will be imposed if it is checked by the police.

## Bicycle repair

The experts at the repair café and the Wirkstatt 376 offer support in repairing your bike.

## **Meeting point**

## Fahrrad Reparatur Café

- Pahnhof Germersheim, 76726 Germersheim
- @JR@reparaturcafe-germersheim.de
- https://reparaturcafe-germersheim.de/?page\_id=349
- Every 1st and 2nd Saturday of the month, from 10:00 to 12:00.





## Religion

## Religion

## **Religious freedom**

There is freedom of religion in Germany. Everyone is allowed to believe what they want. And you are allowed to practise your religion as long as you do not violate the Basic Law. Freedom of religion is enshrined in law.

The state is neutral towards all religions. It tolerates and accepts them. People can decide for themselves whether they want to profess a religion. It is also their decision whether they join a religious community.

State and religion are not separated in all areas in Germany. The state co-operates with religious communities. For example, it organises religious education in schools.

Freedom of religion means, for example:

- All people are free to practise and choose their religion and beliefs.
- All people have the freedom not to be religious and to say so.
- Anyone who does not believe in God is allowed to say so publicly.
- Members of different religions and faiths may marry each other.
- Marriages only count as legally valid marriages before the registry office.
- Marriages entered into during a religious ceremony are not officially recognised.

## **Religious communities in Germany**

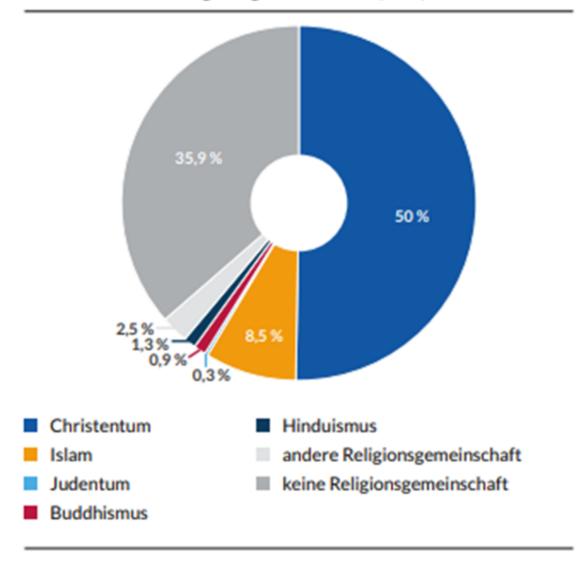
Would you like to know who believes in what in Germany?

You can find an overview here:





## ABBILDUNG 1 Zugehörigkeit zu einer Religionsgemeinschaft (in %)



Frage: "Welcher Religionsgemeinschaft gehören Sie an bzw. fühlen Sie sich zugehörig?"

Quelle: Religionsmonitor 2023; Basis: Bevölkerung Deutschland ab 16 Jahren (N = 4.363), gültige Fälle, gewichtet.

BertelsmannStiftung

Religious diversity continues to increase in Europe. The Bertelsmann Stiftung regularly analyses the role of religion and religious diversity in European societies. You can read about this in the Religion Monitor.

## Houses of prayer of the religions

There is freedom of religion in Germany. Everyone is free to choose and practise their religion. This freedom is also practised in the district of Germersheim. Here, everyone can decide for





themselves what they want to believe in. All religions live together in peace.

#### Where do believers meet?

Every religion has its own places of worship. The believers meet there regularly to talk to each other. They also come together to pray. Houses of worship are important places for believers. They can live their spirituality there. And they experience community.

Important rituals and life events also take place in the houses of prayer. Festivals such as baptisms, weddings and funerals are celebrated there.

#### Which houses of prayer are there?

There are different types of houses of prayer:

- Churches: Christians meet here. Churches are used for services, baptisms and weddings. Other religious ceremonies also take place there.
- Mosques: Muslims meet here. They pray together. They also take part in other religious activities.
- Synagogues: Jews meet here. You can pray in the synagogue. There are also readings from the Torah and other religious events.
- Temples: There are temples in various religions. Hindus and Buddhists, for example, go to temples to pray. There are many rituals and ceremonies there.

#### What do houses of prayer look like?

The houses of prayer all look different. Some have typical signs by which you can recognise them. Some can be recognised from the outside. Other houses of prayer can only be recognised from the inside. They have special furnishings. They also have special ritual objects.

## How can I recognise houses of prayer?

You can recognise houses of prayer by the following, for example:

- Jewish synagogue: the Torah scroll, the Torah shrine and the table for the Torah
- · Christian church: the baptismal font and the cross
- Muslim mosque: the minaret, the prayer niche and the Koran
- Hindu mandir: colourful pictures and statues of various deities, wilted flowers and incense sticks
- · Buddhist temples: statues and pictures of Buddha
- · Cem rooms of the Alevis: the stringed instrument saz

#### What is religious life like in Germany?

If you would like to know more about religion, you can take a look at our app at 🚱 \_



## What is religious life like in the district of Germersheim?

Many different people live together in the district of Germersheim. They come from different countries. And they have different religions.





These religious communities often have their own cultural centres. They can meet and pray together there.

The communities also provide pastoral care. They help people in difficult situations. They also offer counselling. They often work together with other organisations. Sometimes these partners do not belong to a particular religion.

## Are you a believer and looking for a community?

Then you can find many different religious communities in the district of Germersheim. You can find a list of the largest ones here:

## **Catholic Church**

## Catholic parish of St James Germersheim

## Katholisches Pfarramt St. Jakobus Germersheim

**Q** Klosterstraße 13, 76726 Germersheim

@pfarramt.germersheim@bistum-speyer.de

**49** (0) 72749485330

https://www.kath-pfarrei-germersheim.de/

## **Protestant church**



## **Protestantische Kirchengemeinde Germersheim**

Phauptstraße 1, 76726 Germersheim

@pfarramt.germersheim1@evkirchepfalz.de

**4**+49 (0) 72749499901

https://evkirche-germersheim.de/

#### Free church

## Freie Christengemeinde Germersheim





- Rheinbrückenstraße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- @willkommen@fcg-germersheim.de
- **49** (0) 7274777300
- https://www.fcg-germersheim.de/

## Mosques



## **DITIB Moschee Germersheim**

- Phans-Sachs-Straße 4, 76726 Germersheim
- @info@ditib-germersheim.de
- <u>+49 (0) 72743750</u>
- http://www.ditibgermersheim.de/

## **DITIB Moschee Wörth**

- Pahnhofstraße 40, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- +49 (0) 72713541
- https://www.ditib-woerth.de/

## **DITIB Moschee Lustadt**

- **♀**Karl-Lehr Straße 24, 67363 Lustadt
- <u>+49 (0) 6347973954</u>

## Islamischer Verein für Völkerverständigung Germersheim e.V.

- **Q** Lilienstraße 9, 76726 Germersheim
- @info@ivv-ger.de
- +49 (0) 7274948671
- http://ivv-germersheim.de/

## Jewish community





## Jüdische Kultusgemeinde der Rheinpfalz

Am Weidenberg 3, 67346 Speyer

+49 (0) 62329901761

https://www.jkgrp.de/

Opening hours

Monday to Friday, 9:00 - 12:00h

#### Cemeteries and burials

#### **Burials/interments/funerals**

When someone has died, they are buried. There are different terms for this: burial, interment or funeral.

There are many ways to bury a person in Germany:

- in a coffin (burial)
- in an urn (cremation)
- in water (burial at sea)
- in the roots of a tree (tree burial)

## Help and support with funerals

When a person has died and needs to be buried, there is a lot to do and a lot to decide. Many relatives are overwhelmed. They need support. A funeral parlour can help with this.

There are many funeral parlours in the district of Germersheim. They can help and support grieving relatives. For example, they can obtain the necessary authorisations for the funeral. They can also help if the deceased person is to be transferred abroad.

The funeral directors organise the funeral. They also advise on the choice of burial.

You can find an overview of funeral parlours at 🚱 here.

#### Cemeteries in the district of Germersheim

A cemetery is the place where a person is buried after their death. Cemeteries are places where people can mourn and remember the deceased. They are often also places where you can exchange ideas with other relatives of the deceased.

Cemetery offices and cemetery administrations

Kandel Forest Cemetery





#### **Animal burials**

The town of Kandel also offers the possibility of burying pets.

Waldesruh pet cemetery of the town of Kandel

#### Animal welfare and rescue

Animal welfare has been practised in Germany since 1819. Animal welfare is enshrined as a national objective in the Basic Law and is regulated in principle in the Animal Welfare Act.

Numerous EU regulations have been developed since 1819. They regulate the treatment of animals in agriculture, industry, trade and private life.

In Germany, there are many initiatives and organisations for animal welfare. If animals are in distress, there is the option of contacting an animal rescue organisation.

Anyone who can no longer look after their pet for personal or financial reasons can turn to animal shelters/animal rescue centres. Here the animals are cared for and can often be placed in a new home.

Simply abandoning an animal, on the other hand, is a criminal offence. The fine can be up to 25,000 euros.

- Further information on the Animal Welfare Act can be found at Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.
- Further information on Animal welfare in the district of Germersheim.

#### Vets in the district of Germersheim

There are many vets and a veterinary clinic in the district of Germersheim. Pets can be examined and treated here.

You can find an overview in the online vet directory.

#### Animal rescue in the district of Germersheim

## **Eichhörnchen Notstation**

Orffstraße 14, 76726 Germersheim

+49 (0) 17629072455

© Open around the clock

## TERRA MATER e.V. Umwelt und Tierhilfe Tierauffangstation Lustadt

Am Klärwerk 2, 67363 Lustadt





#### +49 (0) 6347608672

#### Tierschutzverein Schnauze in Not e.V.

Pfarrer-Frey-Straße 39, 76770 Hatzenbühl

+49 (0) 72755247

## André Braselmann | Giftköder Radar

Phubenweg 18, 76761 Rülzheim

**4**+49 (0) 1726165553

The Poison Bait Radar provides daily updates on deliberately placed poison bait and suspected danger zones in Germany

A small selection of national animal welfare organisations can be found here:

- Animal Welfare Association
- · Animal welfare organisation
- <u>Peta</u>
- WWF
- Four Paws

Many zoos and animal welfare organisations offer the opportunity to become a sponsor or donate money. Here, a person takes on a duty of care for an animal or an animal species.

If an animal dies, it can be buried at <u>Tierfriedhof Waldesruh Kandel</u>.

## Germany from A to Z

## Handbook Germany

Handbook Germany provides A-Z answers about life in Germany in videos and texts in eight languages. It has important tips on the asylum process, housing, health, work and education, as well as kindergarten, university and much more.

#### **My Welcome Guide**

Young people from different countries around the world arrive in Germany every day. They often know very little about our country and what to expect here.

They are sometimes unsure of how they should and can behave in their new environment. Many impressions are new and unfamiliar to them. They encounter means of transport, such as the underground, with ticket machines.

They also come across adverts everywhere that they don't understand or regulations that they can't understand.





In their countries of origin, many things are regulated differently and everyday life is often determined by other necessities. Their previous experiences may make it difficult for young people to find their way in this new environment.

The MY-WelcomeGuide uses short video clips to give both young people and children with refugee experience tips on how to find their feet in their new environment. The clips are not intended to be instructive or to point the finger.

The aim of the project is to give new arrivals some initial tips to help them settle in better.

#### Public holidays and school holidays in Rhineland-Palatinate (RLP)

There are public holidays in Germany. These public holidays are defined by law. All businesses are closed on these days and many people do not have to work. There is a general ban on working, although there are some exceptions to this. These exceptions apply, for example, to emergency and rescue services, fire brigades, hospitals and catering establishments.

Some public holidays only apply in individual federal states. There may therefore be differences here.

Schools also have school holidays. The holidays are also defined by law. Schools are closed on these days. There are no lessons. The school holidays vary from state to state. And they also vary from year to year.

## Public holidays in Rhineland-Palatinate (RLP) 2025

- 01 January 2025 New Year
- 18 April 2025 Good Friday
- 21 April 2025 Easter Monday
- 01 May 2025 Labour Day
- 29 May 2025 Ascension Day
- **09 June 2025** Whit Monday
- 19 June 2025 Corpus Christi
- 03 October 2025 Day of German Unity
- 01 November 2025 All Saints' Day
- 25 December 2025 1st Christmas Day
- 26 December 2025 2nd Christmas Day

## School holidays in Rhineland-Palatinate (RLP) 2025

- **23.12.24 08.01.2025** Christmas holidays
- 14.04. 25.04.2025 Easter holidays
- **07.07. 15.08.2025** Summer holidays
- **13.10. 24.10.2025** Autumn holidays
- 22.12.2025 07.01.2026 Christmas holidays





**Attention:** Due to a change in the holiday regulations for Rhineland-Palatinate, there will be no winter holidays and no Whitsun holidays from the 2024/2025 school year.

intercultural-calendar-2025.pdf

## Legal and rights

Living together in Germany: rights and laws

#### The Basic Law

Every country has rules that everyone must abide by. The most important law for Germany is the <u>Basic Law</u>. It is the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany. It lays down rules that determine how people in Germany live together.

According to the Basic Law, every person is a free and self-determined individual. This is laid down in Articles 1 to 19 of the Basic Law ( catalogue of basic rights).

- The Basic Law in 11 other languages: <u>Arabic</u>, <u>Chinese</u>, <u>English</u>, <u>French</u>, <u>Italian</u>, <u>Persian</u>, <u>Polish</u>, <u>Russian</u>, <u>Serbian</u>, <u>Spanish</u>, <u>Turkish</u>.
- This film clearly shows how the German constitutional state works: German, Dari, Arabic, English, French, Pashto, Urdu.

## **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Human rights are important rights that always apply to all people all over the world. Human rights are rights that every person has by virtue of being human. They protect the dignity of every human being. They apply equally to all human beings, without distinction of any kind, such as "(...) colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." (Article 2 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948)

There are 30 rights. The most important are:

- All people are of equal value.
- · Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion.
- Everyone has the right to peace and security.

## Children's rights

Children need special protection and therefore also special rights. The individual rights of children are set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989. It was subsequently ratified by 196 states. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child comprises a total of 54 articles.

The 10 most important children's rights are clearly explained here: <u>German/Arabic</u> and <u>German/Persian</u>.





• Further information can also be found in the Handbook Germany.

## Refugee Guide

Welcome to Germany! This guide contains useful tips and information for life in Germany.

- German / German easy language
- Albanian / Shqiptar
- ىرد / Dari
- ىسراف / Farsi
- Kurdish / Kurdî
- Macedonian / Македонски
- وت∏پ / Pashto
- Serbian / Srpski / Српски
- Tigrinya / □□□□
- ودرا / Urdu

#### German electoral law

## **Elections in general**

- general: all citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany have the right to vote regardless of gender, income, religious denomination, profession or political conviction.
- direct: voters elect their representatives directly (directly).
- free: citizens are not influenced or pressurised in their voting decision. They can also decide not to vote.
- equal: every vote counts equally. Votes may not be weighted in any way, i.e. one vote counts more than another\*.
- secret: everyone should be able to mark their cross on the ballot paper without being observed. The polling booths must not be visible from the outside. The ballot papers are folded after they have been completed. They are then placed in the ballot boxes so that no one can recognise who has made the cross.
- \* However, there is a restriction due to the five per cent clause: parties that receive less than five per cent of the votes in the Bundestag election cannot enter the Bundestag. However, this means that the votes of those who voted for these small parties are not represented in parliament.

## **Election contestation possible**

All eligible voters have the opportunity to contest the election if they believe that one or more of



these principles of electoral law have been violated.

## Who can vote for the Bundestag?

Every four years, citizens elect people to represent them. These are called MPs. All members of parliament are together: The German Bundestag. The Bundestag makes important decisions for the citizens.

You can vote if you:

- Are at least 18 years old,
- have German citizenship, i.e. are German or are German and have a German identity card
- have been resident in Germany for at least 3 months before the election. Your place of residence is where you are registered at the citizens' registration office.
- There are special rules for Germans who always live abroad.
- If you are entitled to vote, you are on the electoral roll.
- · A person may only vote once in a Bundestag election.

In 2019, the Federal Constitutional Court issued a judgement. It states that it is against the Basic Law to exclude certain groups from the right to vote. Since then, the following groups have also been allowed to vote

- People with disabilities
- People who are under guardianship in all matters
- · People who are inculpable and are in a psychiatric hospital following a criminal offence

#### Federal election 2025

Following the break-up of the grand coalition, the Bundestag was dissolved by the Federal President on 27 December 2024. The new German Bundestag will be elected on **23 February 2025** .

Every eligible voter can cast their vote on this day. Every single vote is important and worth the same. Every vote counts.

The German Bundestag will be elected according to the principles of proportional representation. Every voter has two votes: the first vote and the second vote.

#### What do you vote for with your first vote?

With the first vote, you vote for a candidate from your constituency. Whoever has the most first votes in their constituency is the winner in that constituency.

The electoral law was reformed in 2023. Since then, the winners of a constituency no longer automatically receive a seat in the Bundestag. They only enter the Bundestag if their party also wins a seat in the second vote. There are no longer any overhang seats or equalising seats as there were in previous Bundestag elections. It is therefore possible that a candidate is elected in





his or her constituency but there are not enough seats for the party via the second vote. In this case, the candidate with the fewest votes does not get a seat in the Bundestag.

#### This means that

- if a party in a federal state receives 28 seats in the Bundestag through the second vote, but wins 30 votes in its constituency, only 28 winners from the constituencies will enter the Bundestag. These are the ones who received the most votes.
- If a party in a federal state receives 30 seats in the Bundestag through the first vote, but all 28 winners from the constituencies already have a seat, the remaining vacant seats would be allocated according to the state list.

#### What do you vote for with the second vote?

With the second vote, voters choose a party's state list. The party has nominated its candidates on this list. For example, if a party receives 20 per cent of the second votes nationwide, it also receives 20 per cent of the seats in the Bundestag. The second vote therefore determines the composition of the Bundestag. Due to the reform of electoral law in 2023, the number of members in the Bundestag is limited to 630 seats.

Further information on the 2025 Bundestag election can be found at here

#### Still not sure when to vote?

Then perhaps the Wahl-O-Mat can help you. The Wahl-O-Mat is a service provided by the Federal Centre for Civic Education to inform you about elections and politics. The Wahl-O-Mat is independent. It is not an election recommendation. You still decide who you want to vote for!

All 29 parties standing for election have answered the Wahl-O-Mat theses. You can compare points of view here and look at the parties' answers on various topics.

## Don't know where to cast your vote?

If you have the right to vote in the Bundestag elections, you will have received a letter in the last few weeks. This is your polling card. This polling card also contains the address of your polling station. You can go there on election day and cast your vote. Please remember to bring your polling card and your ID/passport or passport replacement with you.

## Are you unable or unwilling to cast your vote in person on election day and would prefer to vote by post?

If you would like to vote by post (postal vote), you must apply for a polling card with postal voting documents from your local authority. You can apply for these documents either via your polling card or online. You will find a QR code for this on your polling card. You can also apply for your postal voting documents by email.

You have the opportunity to apply for your polling card and postal voting documents up to and including **Friday, 21 February, 3 pm**. In certain exceptional cases, for example if you suddenly fall ill, this is still possible until 3 pm on election day on Sunday, 23 February.

As soon as you have completed your postal voting documents, put them in the envelope and seal it. You do not need to affix a stamp. You can now send the election letter to the relevant authority. The address is already on the envelope. You can also drop the envelope in the





letterbox at your local authority. Your letter must reach the relevant authority by 6 p.m. on **election Sunday, 23 February at the latest**. Only then can your vote be counted.

#### Would you like to find out more about your constituency?

Here you will find a list of all direct candidates from your constituency

## Do you have more questions about the electoral law reform to reduce the size of the **Bundestag?**

Then you can find more information here



## **European elections**

#### What is the European election?

In the European elections, the people of the European Union elect the members of the European Parliament. These members then represent the people in parliament. The European Union is called the EU. The election takes place in all 27 EU countries.

#### How often do the European elections take place?

The election takes place every 5 years. The last election was in June 2024

#### Why is voting important?

When you vote, you elect the members of the European Parliament. These members make decisions. These decisions are important for your everyday life. These decisions concern, for example, work, health and the environment. Your vote is important. You vote and help decide.

## What are the rules for voting?

If you want to vote, you may have to register to vote beforehand. You can only vote once in each election. You can vote if you are an EU citizen. You are an EU citizen if you are a citizen of an EU country. You can vote in the EU country in which you are a citizen. If you live in another EU country, you can vote in that EU country. You can only stand as a candidate in one EU country. This can be the EU country in which you are a citizen. If you live in another EU country, you can stand as a candidate in that EU country.

## Where can I find information about voting?

You can find out how to vote in the European elections on the European Parliament's website

## Where can I find the results of the election?

You can find the results of the European elections on the European Parliament's website  $\Theta$ .



## What do Members of the European Parliament do?

Members of the Parliament are called MEPs. MEPs represent 450 million people in the EU. MEPs scrutinise plans for new EU laws. MEPs also make laws better. MEPs and the Council of the EU decide on the EU's money. MEPs scrutinise the work of the EU. The EU makes treaties with countries outside the EU. MEPs vote on these treaties. MEPs elect the President of the European





Commission.

#### How many MEPs are elected?

In 2024, 720 MEPs will be elected. The number of MEPs is determined before each election. There can be no more than 750 MEPs and one President. There are now 705 MEPs. Each EU country may have a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 96 MEPs.

#### What happens after the election?

The elected MEPs form political groups. They are called political groups. In these groups there are MEPs from different countries and different parties. The MPs in a group have the same goals. The MPs elect a president for the parliament. The MEPs also elect the President of the European Commission.

## Voting rights for foreigners

Foreigners do not have the right to vote or stand for election. They cannot vote in federal elections, state elections or referendums at federal or state level.

#### What other opportunities for voting do EU foreigners have?

Nevertheless, there are opportunities for foreigners from third countries to participate in politics. For example, they can be appointed to municipal committees to represent group interests. There are many opportunities for participation, particularly at the level of associations, citizens' initiatives, trade unions and schools.

One possibility, for example, is to be elected to the <u>Advisory Council for Migration and Integration</u>.

## How can migrants born here obtain the German right to vote?

If migrants were born here and have lived in Germany for a long time, they have the option of naturalisation under German citizenship law. Easier conditions then apply to their naturalisation. This means that they have to fulfil fewer requirements.

Naturalisation also gives you the right to vote.

Click here for information on naturalisation.

## Equality between women and men/Equal Opportunities Officer

#### Equal opportunities officer in the district of Germersheim

Men and women have the same rights in Germany. This is written in the constitution. The Equal Opportunities Commissioner stands up for all women and men. She ensures that all men and women are treated equally in all areas of life (Article 3, Paragraph 2 of the Basic Law).

The Equal Opportunities Officer is responsible for all citizens of the district of Germersheim. She also looks after the employees of the district administration.





#### The aim of the Equal Opportunities Officer is to

- to further reduce discrimination against women
- · to promote equal opportunities
- Counselling

#### What are her tasks?

- She is the contact person for women in need (e.g. in cases of domestic or sexualised violence)
- she advises on questions of reorientation in the event of separation, divorce or professional integration
- it promotes equal opportunities for women in the district and in the public sector
- it works to ensure that equal rights for men and women are recognised in society
- it organises measures/information events to improve the social and professional situation
- it co-operates with groups, initiatives and associations by and for women and exchanges information. It is in contact with women's self-help organisations and other socially relevant groups
- · it promotes the compatibility of work and family life
- it draws up an equality/women's report on the situation of women and the status of equality in the district. It works on this on an ongoing basis
- it helps to implement the state equality law in the administration

## Do you need help and/or don't know who to turn to?

Then get in touch with the Equal Opportunities Officer! She will work with you to find a solution

## Lisa-Marie-Trog | Gleichstellungsbeauftragte

- Sismarckstraße 4, 76726 Germersheim
- @gleichstellungsbeauftragte@kreis-germersheim.de
- **4**+49 (0) 7274531109
- https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/buergerservice/j...

Mrs E. Julier (Assistant to the Equal Opportunities Officer)

- QLuitpoldplatz 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/531109
- @e.julier@kreis-germersheim.de
- ©Consultation hours: Wednesdays between 9 and 11 am.

<u>Click here</u> for the homepage of the Equal Opportunities Officer of the Germersheim district administration





## Living diversity: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans\* and Inter\* (LGBTI)

In Germany, all people have the same rights. They live together peacefully. It does not matter

- what religion
- what gender
- · what origin
- · or political views they have.

In Germany, all people have the same rights, no matter who they love. Men can love men. And women can love women. They can also marry.

Everyone who feels like a woman even though they were born a man also has the same rights. Or who feel like a man but were born a woman. This also applies to anyone who sees themselves as neither a man nor a woman.

The same rights therefore apply to everyone: lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender and intersex people, or LGBTI for short.

In addition to the two genders "male" and "female", there is also the third gender "diverse".

People who feel they were born in the wrong body are called transgender people. They can undergo gender reassignment surgery in Germany. They can then have the gender entry and their name changed in their passport. All you need to do is submit an application to the relevant local court. You can find information about the local court at here.

You can find more information and contact persons at the Lesbian and Gay Association in Germany:

www.lsvd.de

@lsvd@lsvd.de

Eine Welt der Vielfalt e.V. - Diversity - What is it? (ewdv-diversity.de)

## Are you part of the LGBTI community? Have you fled to Germany because you were persecuted in your home country?

If you have fled and are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex, you can contact the LGBTI organisations in Germany. These organisations offer support, social contacts and information.

The LSVD project "Queer Refugees Deutschland" provides contact persons and further information:

www.queer-refugees.de

@queer-refugees@lsvd.de





The <u>factsheet LSBTIQ Unterbringung.pdf</u> collects information on the situation of LGBTIQ\* asylum seekers. It deals with their special accommodation needs (including experiences from counselling practice and guidelines on accommodation).

Guide for LGBTI refugees in Germany

#### Further information and offers

- QueerNet Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.: 😥 www.queernet-rlp.de
- Network Schlau RLP: www.schlau-rlp.de
- <u>Jugendnetzwerk Lambda e. V.</u> Network for young lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals
- Lesbian counselling place for communication, culture, education and information e.V.
- ILSE Initiative of Lesbian and Gay Parents: www.lsvd.de
- Working group on homosexuals and the church: www.huk.org
- <u>Baden-Württemberg State Centre</u> for Political Education
- Explanatory video YouTube
- Federal Centre for Civic Education Migration and Diversity

## Women's rights

## Labour and wages

On average, women in Germany earn less than men. On the one hand, they work in areas that are paid less. This is the case in the social sector, for example. But women also often earn less than their male colleagues for the same job. Politicians have been discussing various proposals for years to achieve greater pay equality. So far, however, not much has changed.

Many women's jobs are not perceived as work. They do the housework. They bring up the children. Or they care for sick or elderly family members. These jobs are unpaid. But they are still work. This is often not recognised.

In Germany, many people still think that the man earns the money. And therefore he doesn't have to help with the housework. But more and more women are also working.

Would you like to find well-paid work in Germany? Then the first thing you should do is learn German. The BAMF offers courses especially for parents and women. Here you can also get information about childcare and the school system. Where you live, you can obtain information from migration advice centres, immigration authorities, employment agencies, job centres or directly from the schools that offer integration courses.

## Arranged marriages and forced marriages

#### Arranged marriage

What is an arranged marriage?





In an arranged marriage, both spouses agree to marry. They are not forced into marriage. But there are third parties who arrange the marriage. These can be matchmakers or family members. They propose partners.

This form of marriage is **permitted** in Germany because both partners agree to the marriage.

#### Where do arranged marriages take place?

Arranged marriages often occur in societies with very traditional family structures.

## Forced marriage

#### What is a forced marriage?

A forced marriage is a forced marriage to which the girls or women have not voluntarily decided. They are forced into it against their will. Or they are not even asked what they want.

This form of marriage is **forbidden** in Germany because one of the partners (usually the woman) does not agree to the marriage.

Anyone who forces another person to marry in Germany is committing a criminal offence. Anyone who forces a person to marry using violence or threats can be sentenced to between six months and five years in prison.

It is also a criminal offence to attempt to deliberately lure a person abroad in order to marry them there against their will. This attempt is already a criminal offence.

#### Where do forced marriages occur more frequently?

Forced marriages are more common in very traditional families. They are more common among people with a migration background. In many cases, the girls are still minors. The majority of them have grown up in Germany. They often have German citizenship and are well integrated into society.

#### Are minors allowed to marry?

Since 2017, Germany has had its own law to combat child marriages. It is intended to prevent forced marriages of minors. Since this law was introduced, people must be at least 18 years old to get married. This applies to both people with German and non-German citizenship.

Before the law was introduced, young people aged 16 and over could marry in exceptional cases. This is now **prohibited**. This also applies to the marriage or engagement of minors in a traditional or religious ceremony.

Anyone who was married before the new law can apply for the marriage to be declared invalid.

#### How are forced marriages enforced?

The perpetrators are usually male relatives of the girls and women concerned. The girls and women are often put under psychological pressure, insulted or blackmailed by their fathers, brothers, uncles, cousins or nephews. The perpetrators accuse the girls or women of defiling the family's honour. Sometimes they beat the girls or women and threaten to take them back





to their home country.

Sometimes the girls or women are also lured abroad by the perpetrators. This is often done under a pretext: they are told that they are going on holiday there. The aim is to separate the girls or women from their social environment. They are then forced to marry abroad.

#### What happens after the forced marriage?

Many girls or women who have been forced into marriage are no longer allowed to attend school afterwards. Or do not finish their education.

#### Were they forced to marry? Or are you afraid that you will be married off?

There are various organisations you can turn to. You can get help here:

- Girls and women who have been forced into marriage or are at risk of being forced into
  marriage can contact the "Violence against women" helpline with any questions they may
  have. Relatives, friends and professionals can also seek advice here. The help hotline staff
  can also put you in touch with nearby support centres. Helpline \$\scrtew 08000/116016\$
- The nationwide advice centre Twangsheirat.de" offers advice and support. The website is aimed at girls and women who are affected themselves. Or to people who would like to help. Professionals can also find information and tips there.
- The formula of the fermion of the counselling service provides advice on the topics of forced marriage and arranged marriages
- You can find more addresses and contacts for violence against women here in our app <u>Help</u> with violence - for women
- Here you can find counselling centres in Rhineland-Palatinate <u>Forced</u> <u>marriage postcard final.pdf</u>

#### Are you afraid of being married abroad?

If so, you should do everything in your power not to leave Germany. You can approach the security staff at the airport. Or tell passport control that you should leave Germany against your will.

Once you are abroad, it is much more difficult to get help.

If you cannot prevent your departure, it is important to take precautions. You can find more information on this at  $\bigcirc$  here

#### FGM - Female genital mutilation / Female circumcision

## What is female genital mutilation?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves the partial or complete removal of the female genitalia. Or to damage the genitals.

In many countries, young girls and women are circumcised for traditional or cultural reasons. It is particularly widespread in Islamic regions in Africa.





In Africa, FGM is often called "the thing". It has been a fixed ritual performed on girls and women for around 5,000 years. From infancy to adulthood. Circumcision is mainly performed before the onset of puberty. The woman is supposed to prove to her future husband that she is still a virgin.

FGM is also often required by the community. It is seen as a symbol of belonging to the group and of femininity. Anyone who refuses is rejected by the community.

Circumcision is carried out with the help of knives and razor blades, but also acacia thorns and snares. The "circumcisers" are often women of advanced age who have been doing this for many years.

The WHO distinguishes between four types of female genital mutilation:

- Type 1: The clitoris is partially or completely removed. Or the clitoral hood is cut away (clitoridectomy)
- Type 2: The clitoris and labia minora (labia minora) are partially or completely removed. This type of mutilation is carried out in around 85 per cent of all FGM practices
- Type 3: The clitoris and the labia minora and labia majora are removed. The rest of the
  vulva is closed with acacia drones. A foreign body (e.g. a straw) is inserted. This is to
  prevent the wound from growing completely closed. This leaves a small opening for
  urinating and menstruating
- Type 4: Extreme brutality is used here. The clitoris and labia are mutilated by pricking, cutting, stretching or cauterising

#### What are the consequences of circumcision?

Many girls die during the mutilation. Or later from the consequences. There are many dangerous after-effects of the mutilation:

- · Incontinence,
- pain,
- heavy bleeding,
- · complications during sexual intercourse and childbirth, infertility,
- · risk of HIV and hepatitis infection,
- · blood poisoning and tetanus,
- · states of shock,
- psychological trauma,
- · depression,
- Sexual satisfaction is also usually no longer possible after FGM.

#### How often does female genital mutilation occur?

Worldwide, 150 million women are affected by FGM. Every day, 8,000 girls are circumcised. One every 11 seconds.

#### Is circumcision permitted in Germany?

In Germany, female circumcision (female genital mutilation (FGM)) is **prohibited.** Since September 2013, FGM has been punishable by imprisonment. It is also **forbidden** for parents





**to have their daughter circumcised abroad**. This is also prosecuted under German criminal law.

Girls and young women can apply for asylum in Germany if they are threatened with being circumcised.

## Are you afraid that you are going to be circumcised? Or has it already happened?

Then you can contact the helpline

#### **\**08000116016

The staff at the helpline are there for you day and night. Also in different languages.

#### Is it possible to reverse the circumcision?

In Germany, it is possible to reconstruct the clitoris. This operation can be performed by plastic surgeons. You can ask a gynaecologist for advice.

A <u>O"Centre for victims of genital mutilation"</u> was founded in Berlin. This centre treats not only the physical but also the psychological consequences. The centre is free and anonymous. You do not need health insurance.

Further addresses can be found here:

SOLWODI Ludwigshafen - Counselling centre on FGM. The counselling centre also helps with questions about forced marriage, honour killings and human trafficking

NALA e.V. - NALA is primarily campaigning against female genital mutilation (FGM) in African countries, in Germany and worldwide.

Forum FGM - Together against genital mutilation

**Caritas Mainz** - Caritas supports, among other things, training courses on the topic

Pro Familia Nuremberg - Specialist centre for FGM\_C. Pro Familia provides information on the topic in various languages

Stop Mutilation e.V. - a guide for educational professionals

## **Termination of pregnancy**

In Germany, you have the right to terminate your pregnancy under certain conditions. An abortion can only be carried out in the first twelve weeks of pregnancy, after pregnancy conflict counselling and accompanied by a doctor. After the first twelve weeks, an abortion is only possible in exceptional cases.

If someone wants to force you to have an abortion or you have questions about a possible abortion, contact the help hotline for pregnant women in need:  $\$  0800/4040020.

You can find more information on pregnancy and birth counselling here





If you have become pregnant as a result of rape, you can have an abortion up to twelve weeks after conception. In this case, you do not have to visit a counselling centre. However, you can seek advice free of charge at a counselling centre near you.

If your physical or mental health is endangered by the pregnancy, you can still have an abortion at a later date. The risk must be certified by a doctor.

- Are you under 18 years old? Do you want to terminate the pregnancy? Then your mother or father must usually give their consent
- **Are you over 16 years old?** Then the doctor may decide that you no longer need your parents' consent
- Are you under 16 years old? Then you usually need the consent of one of your parents.
- Are you unable or unwilling to tell your parents about the pregnancy? Then contact a counselling centre. The staff there will help you.

## Who pays for the costs of an abortion?

If you have become pregnant as a result of rape or if your pregnancy jeopardises your health, your health insurance or social welfare office will cover the costs of an abortion. If you wish to terminate your pregnancy for other reasons, you will have to pay part of the costs yourself. In this case, your health insurance will only pay for the medical counselling and care as well as the medication before and after the procedure. You will have to pay the costs of the actual abortion yourself. This is usually between €200 and €600. You can find out more about the various abortion options in many different languages at ② zanzu.de.

## Do you receive benefits from the state? Or do you only earn a little money?

Then you can apply to your health insurance company or social welfare office to have the costs of the abortion covered.

# I don't want to keep the child, but I don't want to have an abortion either. What can I do?

If you cannot or do not want to keep your child, you can give your child up for adoption after birth. The Youth Welfare Office will then initially take over the care of your child and look after it. If you then finally decide that you do not want to bring up your child yourself, you can give it up for adoption. The youth welfare office will then look for a caring family to raise your child.

If nobody is allowed to find out about your pregnancy, there is still the option of bringing your child into the world. You are not alone in this. There is the option of a so-called "confidential birth". With a "confidential birth", you can give birth to your child safely in a hospital. With the exception of a counsellor, no one will know your name. The counsellor is not allowed to talk to anyone about you. This way you remain unrecognised. After the age of 16, your child may have the right to know your name. However, apart from your child, nobody else has this right. You do not have to pay the costs for the counselling and the birth yourself. If you would like a "confidential birth", you can contact the "Counselling & Confidential Birth" advice centre around the clock at \$\subseteq 0800/4040020\$ or online. Counselling is free and anonymous. The counsellors there speak many languages. Alternatively, you can also contact any clinic. The staff there know what to do.





#### House of the Diakonie Speyer-Germersheim

Pregnancy and conflict counselling

 $\bigcirc$ 07274/6300 (daily from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

Diaconia Speyer-Germersheim

#### Women on the run

Half of all refugees are women and girls. They often flee for the same reasons as men. However, there are other dangers that women face because of their gender. They often suffer additional threats or persecution simply because they are women.

Girls and women experience this threat not only in their home country, but also when fleeing and in refugee camps. And sometimes even in the host country.

## What are the gender-specific reasons that force women to flee?

Girls and women often flee for the same reasons as men. They are fleeing violence, discrimination and persecution. They are persecuted because of their faith or membership of a particular population group. Or they are fleeing war. Economic factors and climatic conditions can also be reasons for fleeing.

In addition to these reasons, however, there are other causes that affect girls and women in particular. These include

- Forced marriage,
- the threat of femicide,
- · genital mutilation,
- · domestic violence and forced prostitution

## What do refugee women need?

Women need special protection in the asylum process. This has often been ignored up to now. This is why Kargah e.V. and the Caritas Association for the Diocese of Osnabrück have produced a guide for refugee women.

The guide provides information and suggestions for refugee women. Volunteers and professional counsellors will also find information here.

Information is provided on these topics:

- Asylum procedures and women's rights
- · Health care
- pregnancy
- violence
- · Participation of refugee women
- · Special protection needs of women and girls
- · Special features of the asylum procedure





The guide mainly refers to the situation in Lower Saxony. However, much of the important information and overviews apply generally. It can be ordered here:

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) refugees are also particularly affected by structural discrimination and violence.

In Germany, these people have the same rights as everyone else. You can find more information on this topic here.

## Stay and counselling

## Office for Migration and Integration

The Office for Migration and Integration is part of the Germersheim district administration. The employees are called representatives for migration and integration.

They deal with the issues of migration and integration in the district. They help people from different countries to get along well with each other. They are committed to peace. And to ensure that all people are treated equally.

The representatives work together with various people. They support groups, organisations and individuals. They all want people from different backgrounds to get to know each other better. They want to reduce prejudice and combat discrimination.

These are the most important tasks of the representatives:

- They help the district administration to shape integration and migration.
- They further develop the integration concept.
- They set up networks and working groups in the community.
- They promote dialogue between people of different cultures.
- You take care of the Integreat app so that it is always up to date.
- You plan and organise intercultural projects.
- You prepare and organise the Intercultural Week (IKW).
- · You chair the Advisory Board for Migration and Integration.
- They are the contact persons for the Intercultural Assistants (IKAs).
- They provide counselling in individual cases.

Do you have any questions or concerns about migration and integration?

Then get in touch:

Ingrid Lindner | Büro für Migration und Integration

**Q** Tournuser Platz 2, 76726 Germersheim

@i.lindner@kreis-germersheim.de

+49 (0) 727453487





https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/buergerservice/j...

## Laura Valencia | Büro für Migration und Integration 1

- **Q** Tournuser Platz 2, 76726 Germersheim
- @l.valencia@kreis-germersheim.de
- **4**+49 (0) 7274532899
- https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/buergerservice/j...

## Immigration office

If you want to live in Germany as a foreigner, you need a residence permit. There are various residence permits such as

- Visa
- · residence permit
- EU Blue Card
- Settlement permit
- Permanent residence permit

## Do you want to apply for a residence permit?

The residence permit must be applied for at the Foreigners' Registration Office. You can find various application forms on the district website: The application for the issue or extension of a residence permit and settlement permit can be found at here. For faster processing, we recommend that you submit an application online at here.

#### How can you apply for a residence permit?

The Foreigners' Registration Office is currently very busy. It is therefore sometimes difficult to reach the staff by telephone. Or you have to wait a very long time for an appointment. However, you can write an e-mail and send your application.

Important: If you want to submit your application by e-mail, it must be clearly legible. You must scan the application as a PDF and send it. It is not sufficient to send a photo of your application.

The foreigners authority is responsible for

- the extension of the proof of arrival
- issuing and renewing the residence permit
- applying for a work permit
- the registration certificate, registering and deregistering your place of residence
- · the residence permit
- Exceptional authorisations for travel

You can find the relevant documents on the website of the foreigners authority. There you can also find out which documents you still need to submit.





#### Ausländerbehörde

**♀**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim

https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/buergerservice/j...

## Telephone opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 11:00h

Tuesday, 14:00 to 15:00h

Thursday, 14:00 to 16:00h

Important: You will definitely need an appointment to discuss your request.

Otherwise the Foreigners' Registration Office is closed to visitors. Please request an appointment by phone or email

You can find the relevant contact persons for the respective subject areas at here.

#### Youth Migration Services (JMD)

The Youth Migration Services (JMD) support young people who have come to Germany. They help them to settle in Germany as quickly as possible. All young people between the ages of 12 and 27 can receive counselling and help from the JMD.

The youth migration services also support them with these issues:

- · Questions about general orientation
- · Questions and problems at school, in training and at work
- Personal questions
- · Financial and legal matters

## **Youth Migration Services Germersheim**

## I don't speak German. Can I still go for counselling?

The Youth Migration Service also offers counselling in other languages. But of course not all languages can be covered. That's why it's always a good idea to bring someone with you who can translate. If necessary, the Youth Migration Service can also bring a translator to the counselling session.

It is better to make an appointment in advance.

You can also learn German at the youth migration services. These courses are free of charge. Many people learn the language at school. Or in integration courses. You can also take part in the language training offered by the youth migration services.







## Internationaler Bund - IB Südwest gGmbH

## **Youth Migration Service Germersheim**

The Germersheim Youth Migration Service (JMD) works with young migrants aged 12 to 27 and their parents. The JMD of the IB is responsible for the district of Germersheim-Nord. It offers free counselling. It advises and helps with almost all questions and works closely with schools, advice centres, government offices and many more.

There are many new things to learn in a foreign country. And some things are different than in your home country. The JMD can advise and help here.

It provides support with

- · Questions about residence
- · Helps with filling out forms
- helps with finding a language course and also offers language courses itself
- helps with the search for training or work

Sometimes the JMD cannot provide direct support. But then it helps people to find the right job.

The JMD staff are also happy to help with communication problems. They are good at mediating between different organisations. And they can also come along to appointments at public offices and help. Or help to find an interpreter for a conversation.

The JMD can also help for a longer period of time. In individual integration planning, the JMD and the young people/young adults work together over a longer period of time and look at how they can achieve certain wishes and goals. For example: What do you need for a life in Germany? What do you want to achieve here?

The JMD also works together with parents if they wish.

## Marina Halilovic | Jugendmigrationsdienst IB

- August-Keiler-Straße 29, 76726 Germersheim
- @Marina.Halilovic@ib.de
- **49** (0) 72749499725
- https://www.internationaler-bund.de/standort/2019...
- August-Keiler-Str. 29, 76726
- @jmd-germersheim@ib.de
- Internationaler Bund Youth Migration Service

Flyer of the Youth Migration Service Germersheim





Mr Joachim Petermann, social counsellor

He also offers counselling in English

- 07274/9499723
- Joachim.Petermann@ib.de



## Youth Migration Service (JMD) - CJD Maximiliansau

Are you aged between 12 and 27 and need help? And do you have questions about school, training and work?

Then come to the Youth Migration Service (JMD) of the CJD. Young people with a migration background are counselled there. The JMD offers help with the recognition of certificates, vocational qualifications and diplomas. It also provides support with the transition from school to work.

The staff at the Youth Migration Services provide counselling on personal issues. And they help with difficulties (case management).

The JMDs provide socio-educational support for the integration courses. The courses are for the CJD Maximiliansau and the entire southern district of Germersheim.

Counselling can also be provided in other languages (English, Italian).

## Is your German not yet so good?

Then you are welcome to bring someone with you who can translate.

## Kathrin Frewell | Jugendmigrationsdienst CJD Wörth

- Rheinstraße 1, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- @kathrin.frewell@cjd.de
- +49 (0) 7271947124
- https://www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de/jmd/woerth/

Asylum counselling and migration counselling

## Specialist services for migration and integration / Migration counselling

Have you recently arrived in Germany? And do you need help? Or do you have questions?

The migration counselling service can provide you with personal advice and support. All people with a migration background over the age of 27 can seek help there.





The counselling service is open to anyone

- who have a permanent residence permit for Germany,
- who have a freedom of movement permit here,
- who have the right to stay (recognised refugees).

Counselling is free of charge.

The migration counselling service provides help and support. It provides information and clarification. This applies to these topics:

- · Initial counselling
- Help with orientation
- Questions about living and working in Germany
- · Information and clarification on the education system and social security system
- Support in dealing with the authorities: Notifications and the next steps can be explained
- Questions on topics that specifically concern foreigners. This applies to the right of residence or work permits
- · Help with applications
- Help with financial support
- Integration courses/language courses (German)
- Recognition of foreign qualifications (school and university)
- · Reunification of children, spouses and families

There is a separate counselling service for teenagers and young adults between the ages of 12 and 27: the youth migration services.

## Asylum counselling and procedural counselling

#### Are you in an asylum procedure? And do you need help and support?

Then come to the asylum counselling and procedural counselling service.

You can get help on these topics at the counselling service:

- General social counselling
- · Specialised migration service
- Refugee counselling
- Asylum counselling and procedural counselling for asylum seekers
- Mediation and referral to other social services and institutions
- Support with the integration process

## Counselling centres

Haus der Diakonie - Specialist service for migration and immigration. Refugee and social counselling.





## Do you have an unresolved status in Germany? Are you an asylum seeker, tolerated or is your residence status still unclear? And do you have any questions?

Then the specialist service for refugees, social counselling and procedural advice can help you. Refugees receive individual procedural counselling here. You will also receive further counselling. This should help you to find your way in Germany.

- Hauptstraße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/1248
- migrationsfachdienst.germersheim@diakonie-pfalz.de
- House of social welfare

## Mrs Olga Prigorko, social worker

- Hauptstraße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/6300
- Olga.Prigorko@diakonie-pfalz.de
- Appointments by arrangement

## **Psychosocial Centre (PsZ) Palatinate**

- 0621/49077740
- psz.germersheim@diakonie-pfalz.de
- Telephone consultation hours:

Tuesday, 14:00 -16:00h

Monday to Friday Appointments by appointment



## **Caritas Centre Germersheim**

#### Do you have foreign roots? And do you have questions or problems as a result?

Then come to the migration counselling service at the Caritas Centre in Germersheim. It is aimed at these groups:

- Foreign nationals
- · Late repatriates and late repatriates





- Refugees
- · People with a migration background.

The migration counselling service can advise and support you with all your questions and problems.

#### **Contact person**

Mrs Katharina Schepelmann

- 17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/9491122
- katharina.schepelmann@caritas-speyer.de or caritas-zentrum.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de
- Migration and integration counselling Caritas Centre
- Appointments by arrangement

## MBE Migration counselling for adult immigrants

## Friends of Asylum Karlsruhe (fka), South Palatinate office

Have you applied for asylum in Germany? Or have you already been recognised as a refugee? And you need help?

Then come to the Freundeskreis Asyl Karlsruhe e.V. (fka). This organisation campaigns for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees. The organisation fights to ensure that all people - regardless of which country they come from - are treated well.

The fka has many programmes. It organises events. And it offers counselling for asylum seekers and refugees. For the organisation, it is always about the fact that everyone has a right to asylum. And that refugees should be accepted, respected and recognised. The fka supports and advises asylum seekers and refugees directly.

#### **Contact person**

Currently not occupied

Circle of Friends Asylum

Friends of Asylum South Palatinate

#### **Further advice centres**

**AK Asyl - Refugee Council RLP e.V.** 





#### Have you fled to Germany and have questions or problems?

Then get in touch with the Flüchtlingsrat RLP e.V. . This is an organisation that supports refugees. You can get advice over the phone.

Anyone who has questions or problems can call. These can be topics such as: Residence, asylum procedures or accommodation. You can also contact the Flüchtlinsgrat if you have other questions. However, the organisation cannot help you if you are looking for a flat or have similar problems.

- 0178/8070415
- beratung@asyl-rlp.org
- Refugee Council RLP
- Telephone counselling services
- Telephone availability:

Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 - 12:00h

You can also make another appointment. However, you must arrange this in advance. Simply send an SMS or email and you will be called back.

## Online counselling from mbeon - multilingual chat counselling

There are many local counselling centres in Germany. However, sometimes the counselling centres are closed. Or they are far away from where you live. This is when digital chat counselling can help.

mbeon offers counselling via chat. All counsellors are qualified specialists from the Migration Counselling Service for Adult Immigrants (MBE). They are guaranteed to respond within 48 hours. They help with all questions and problems that come with living in a new environment. Counselling is anonymous, data-secure and free of charge.

In the app, Sue can also find lots of information on topics such as work and career, health, learning German, housing, family and residence. In addition, mbeon also provides contacts to migration advice centres or other important contact points.

The app is available in German, English, Russian and Arabic. You can get advice in more than 19 different languages.

The app has many advantages:

- The app is flexible. It can be used anywhere and at any time.
- Counselling is provided in your native language.
- The app is data secure. Documents can be sent quickly and securely.
- The app and counselling are free of charge.
- · Counselling is anonymous.
- The free app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store and the AppStore.





Further information is available on the multilingual website and the Facebook page.

#### **Arrive App**

Are you new to Germany? And do you have questions about life in Germany? Or about asylum, training and work?

Then the Ankommen app can help you. The app is available in different languages.



#### **Asylum**

Flight: Information on countries of origin, figures, situation in the district

## **Escape**

## What is flight?

People are on the run when they leave their home country to seek protection and safety in another country. They do this because they are not safe in their own country.

## What is migration?

Migration is often understood to mean that people leave their home country in a planned way. They seek better living conditions elsewhere. Some stay in their own country and move from the countryside to the city, for example. Others hope for a better life elsewhere. This is known as international migration. From the point of view of the country to which these people come, it is also referred to as "immigration".

### Rules and regulations for flight and migration

Countries regulate migration very differently. Countries try to control international migration through laws and regulations. They want to prevent large numbers of people from immigrating. However, many countries want people with certain professions to immigrate. This is often the case if there are not enough people in the country who can or want to do this work.

Residents who live in a member state of the European Union can move anywhere. They are also allowed to work in the other member state.

### Facts and figures on refugees

How many people are currently on the run? And what are they fleeing from?

Never before have so many people fled as today. They are fleeing war, conflict and persecution.





In 2023 alone, at least **27.2 million people** were acutely displaced. Almost one in four has fled to another country. Most of them fled to the countries next to the affected areas. Only a few of these refugees make it to Europe or Germany.

According to the latest Global Trends Report from the UNHCR, **117.3 million people worldwide** were displaced at the end of 2023. That is 8.8 million people (or 8 per cent) more than at the end of 2022. Unfortunately, there is no improvement in sight.

On the contrary: the number of displaced people worldwide continues to rise. In **May 2024, there were already 20 million people worldwide** - that is more than the combined population of Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands. (Source: UNO Flüchtlingshilfe)

#### How many people had to flee after Russia attacked Ukraine?

Many people had to flee after Russia invaded Ukraine. In total, more than 6 million people fled the country. Most of them to neighbouring countries (Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Moldova and Romania) (source: as at 13.06.2024, VNHCR). A large number of refugees from Ukraine are now also living in Germany. There are currently 1,173,358 refugees (Central Register of Foreigners: as of 15 June 2024).

Further current figures and background information can be found at <a href="Mediendienst">Mediendienst</a><a href="Mediendienst">Integration</a>

#### What are the most common reasons for fleeing?

Possible reasons are

- Political persecution,
- · Danger to life,
- · Danger to life
- · Danger to health

#### Why are people being persecuted?

Refugees are at risk

- · because of their gender,
- · because they belong to a minority,
- because of their sexual orientation
- · because of their religion,
- · because of their nationality,
- because there is civil war/war in their country,
- because of natural disasters.

#### What forms of protection are there?

There are various forms of protection for refugees under German, European or international law, for example

• § Section 16a of the Basic Law





- · Geneva Refugee Convention
- · Subsidiary protection
- Contingent refugees as part of humanitarian aid operations

#### Who decides where the refugees go?

The refugees are allocated by the Supervisory and Service Directorate - Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers Trier. This includes these groups:

- · People who have applied for asylum
- · People whose asylum application has been rejected,
- · People who have a right to asylum
- persons who have entered the country illegally within the meaning of Section 15a of the Residence Act (AufenthG),
- · Admitted foreigners according to § 22, 23 and 24 AufenthG,
- · Jewish emigrants,
- · war refugees
- · Civil war refugees

The Supervisory and Service Directorate distributes the migrants. The distribution is calculated according to a specific key (Königsstein key). This key is based on the number of inhabitants. A certain proportion of migrants arriving in Rhineland-Palatinate is allocated to each administrative district and independent city.

The municipalities are responsible for the reception and accommodation of migrants. They are obliged to do so under Section 1 of the State Reception Act.

- Report of the State Statistical Office on migration in Rhineland-Palatinate
- Rhineland-Palatinate State Statistical Office, Germersheim district
- Mediendienst Integration: Current facts and figures
- <u>European Country of Origin Information Network</u> (information on countries of origin and third countries; English)
- UNO Refugee Aid
- Refugee movements Ukraine <u>UNHCR</u>

#### Information for refugees from Ukraine

#### Travelling from Ukraine and staying in Germany

The war in Ukraine has forced many people to flee their home country. Since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression in February 2022, millions of people have been on the run. Over 1 million of them have found refuge in Germany. Many of them women and children.

At 41 per cent, Ukraine accounts for the largest share of all countries of origin in terms of immigration to Germany.





Refugees from Ukraine do not have to apply for asylum in Germany. They receive temporary protection on the basis of an EU directive.

## Do you have questions about travelling from Ukraine? Or about staying in Germany?

The BaMF has compiled a list of questions and answers. You can find them at here. The information is also available in Ukrainian and Russian.

#### Changes for citizens of Ukraine and their family members from November 2024

#### Don't have a visa?

If you are a citizen of Ukraine, you can travel to Germany with your family **without a visa**. However, you must have been on the territory of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. And that you do not have a residence permit for long-term residence in Germany. You may then enter the country without a visa until 4 December 2025. You may stay in Germany for 90 days from the date of your first entry.

If you are a citizen of Ukraine and have a residence permit (in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act), you and your family will be granted temporary protection. It is important that your residence permit becomes valid on 1 February 2025. It will then be automatically extended until 4 March 2026, so you do not need to apply for an extension of your residence permit. Therefore, you do not need to contact the Foreigners' Registration Office.

## Reception of refugees and support; procedures

Displaced persons from Ukraine come to Germany with different ideas. Some are just travelling through and want to go to other European countries. Some want to join their relatives or friends who live in Germany and take them in (for the time being). And a third group would like to be admitted to Germany permanently.

There is a different procedure for each of these cases. Here are a few examples:

- Are you travelling through? You no longer have to register with the foreigners authority or in a reception centre. You may stay in the Schengen area for up to 90 days without a visa. An extension of up to 90 days is possible. It is possible to stay overnight in a reception centre in the country or in a municipal facility. If you are ill or need help, you can contact the social welfare office of your local district or town.
- Are you able to stay with relatives or friends in Rhineland-Palatinate for a longer period of time? Then contact the immigration office. There you can submit an application in accordance with § 24 of the Residence Act (procedure in accordance with the "Mass Influx Directive"). Displaced persons receive benefits in accordance with the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act. You will also receive protection if you are ill. And you will be given accommodation if you need it. The foreigners authority will issue a work permit.
- Are you looking for protection in Rhineland-Palatinate but have no accommodation for a longer period of time? Then contact the Social Welfare Office or the Foreigners' Registration Office. They will then organise the further procedure.
- Are you seeking protection in Rhineland-Palatinate but have no available accommodation? Then contact one of the state's reception centres for asylum seekers in your area.





The Ministry for Families, Women, Culture and Integration in Rhineland-Palatinate has compiled a page with the most important questions on the topics of refugee reception and support.

## Asylum and refugee protection

Ukrainian nationals have the opportunity to stay in Germany for longer. To do so, they must apply for asylum.

You can find out what forms of asylum and refugee protection are available at here.

## Right of residence

The IQ Immigration Centre has also published information. You can find it here FAQs on the current legal residence situation of people from Ukraine in Germany

## Free app - Germany4Ukraine

The German government provides information at Germany4Ukraine. It is aimed at people who have fled Ukraine and their supporters. The information is available in Ukrainian, Russian, German and English. It is also available as a free app. It can be downloaded at here on Google Play for mobile Android devices and here in the Apple Store for mobile iOS devices.

## Figures, legal information, situation of refugees

The MEDIENDIENST has created a <u>new dossier</u>. It summarises the most important figures, legal information and current sources on the situation of refugees. It is updated on an ongoing basis.

#### General information and hotline

Information from the state government on Ukraine can be found at here

There is information on the following topics:

- · Entry and residence,
- · Refugee reception and support,
- · School and day care centre,
- work,
- Help,
- · Volunteer centre,
- · Entry with pets from Ukraine
- and further information...





On this page you will also find a <u>checklist for volunteers</u>. You can find out how volunteers can insure themselves here

#### Are you a Ukrainian war refugee and want to find out for yourself?

The Ukraine information hotline offers information in Ukrainian.

#### **\**0800/0003695

Monday to Friday, 08:00 - 15:00h

Saturdays, 09:00 - 12:00h

#### Language

## VHS learning portal

The German Adult Education Centre Association (VHS) offers a free digital learning portal. The offer applies to German as a second language as well as to literacy and basic education.

German courses up to and including level B1 are now also available in Ukrainian.

## yhs learning portal

## Free German-Ukrainian and Urkainic-German language courses

The language learning app Jicki from Freiburg is now offering free online language courses. The courses are for German-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-German. The courses can be used directly on the website without registration. Or in the app

Click here for the language courses https://www.jicki.de/deutsch-ukrainisch/

#### **Babbel App - Free language courses for Ukrainians**

The Babbel app offers free courses for users who speak Ukrainian. The courses are available in German, Polish and English.

Click here for the offer: 

Babbel for Ukraine

## Daycare centre and school

Information from the state government on the subject of daycare centres and schools can be found here:

### **Studying**

If you would like to continue your studies in Germany, you can find information on the information portal of the "National Academic Contact Point Ukraine".

There you will find information on:





- · Offers of assistance,
- · the requirements for continuing your studies
- · residence law issues.

The information is available at in <u>Ukrainian</u>, <u>German</u> and <u>English</u>.

## Support and work

FAQs on the topic of support and work can be found here 
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs,
Transformation and Digitalisation

## Job portal "Job Aid for Ukrainian Refugees"

The portal <u>ObAidUkraine</u> aims to bring jobseekers and employers together. It aims to support the integration of refugees from Ukraine into the labour market. And give them financial security. After registering, the job portal can also be used directly in Ukrainian.

#### Child benefit

Since 1 June 2022, refugees from Ukraine have been entitled to child benefit.

#### Do you want to submit an application?

Then you need these documents:

- · Application for child benefit
- · A child attachment for each child
- Residence permit in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act (for example, a
  residence permit or an advance residence permit that allows you to work as a parent) from
  you and the child for whom you are applying for child benefit
- Only for children of full age: documents justifying the claim (e.g. school certificate)

Information on child benefit for Ukrainian families and all forms can be found at land here.

On the website <a href="www.germany4ukraine.de">www.germany4ukraine.de</a> (under "How can I apply for child benefit?") you will find a video explaining how to apply for child benefit in Ukrainian. You can find the QR code here:



## **Child custody**





Powers of attorney for custody for young refugees from Ukraine

## Minors fleeing without parents

Refugee children and young people without parents can find support here

## Motor vehicles (car, driving licence)

The refugee advice centre of the Protestant church district of Minden has created a work aid on questions of insurance cover for cars registered in Ukraine and the validity of Ukrainian driving licences in Germany.

Until 31 May 2022, there was a voluntary initiative by German motor vehicle liability insurers due to the exceptional humanitarian situation. Until this date, damage caused by passenger cars with a Ukrainian registration in Germany was covered.

Since 1 June 2022, every owner must now have motor vehicle liability insurance.

Further information on this can be found here at Information for Ukrainian drivers and

## **Public transport**

The pass-ticket regulation for Ukrainian refugees ends on 31 May 2022. From 1 June 2022, Ukrainian refugees will also have to buy a ticket if they want to use public transport.

#### Volunteering

Information for volunteers on offers of help for refugees from Ukraine can be found here:



#### Offers in the district of Germersheim

On the homepage of the Germersheim district administration you will find multilingual information on <u>Ukraine Help in the district of Germersheim</u> on these topics:

- Offer living space
- Services/Asylum
- FAQ (helpful links)
- How can I help?
- · Help for refugees in Krotoszyn/Poland
- Language offers

Under the heading "Events" you will find regularly changing offers, also for refugees.

#### Information for refugees from Syria





## Political situation in Syria and Syrian refugees in Germany

#### What is the political situation in Syria?

Civil war has been raging in Syria since March 2011. Millions of Syrians had to flee from the Assad regime. Around 7 million of them live as internally displaced persons in Syria. A further five million live in other countries. Most of them have fled to the neighbouring countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

In December 2024, Islamist rebels captured the capital Damascus. And thus ended the rule of ruler Bashar al-Asad. The country experienced a change of power. At the moment, however, nobody knows what the consequences will be.

Shortly after the change of power, some people in Germany called for Syrians to return to their home country.

#### How many Syrians live in Germany?

Around one million Syrians live in Germany. At the end of 2023, around 712,000 of them had sought protection in Germany. Most of them have a <u>humanitarian residence permit</u>.

The residence titles are:

- Protection status for refugees under the Geneva Refugee Convention
- · subsidiary protection.
- Only one per cent of applications were rejected.

In total, there are 3.17 million people seeking protection in Germany. Of these, 22 per cent are Syrians. There is currently only one larger group of refugees in Germany. These are people from Ukraine (31 per cent).

### How many have fled?

According to the Federal Statistical Office, around 972,000 Syrians were living in Germany at the end of 2023. In 2024, 72,400 Syrians applied for asylum in Germany for the first time.

The number of people in Germany who have immigrated from Syria themselves is significantly higher than the number of Syrians seeking protection. A large number of them came to Germany during the large refugee movement between 2014 and 2016. In 2023, there were almost 1.3 million people living in Germany who themselves (82 per cent) or both of whose parents (18 per cent) immigrated from Syria. Of the Syrians, around two per cent were born in Germany themselves.

In 2023, around 17 per cent had German citizenship. On average, the immigrants had already been living in Germany for 8.2 years. At 38%, Syrians were the most naturalised citizens.

#### In which professions do Syrians work in Germany?

Syrians often work in <u>bottleneck occupations</u>. The German Economic Institute estimates that there are around 80,000 Syrians.

According to the Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Syrian men often work in these occupations:





- Transport and logistics occupations (22 per cent),
- · Food and hospitality (14 per cent),
- Healthcare (11 per cent)
- construction (9 per cent).

Syrian women work primarily in "social and cultural services":

- as educators (28 per cent)
- in the healthcare sector (18 per cent).

If you compare Syrian refugees with other refugee groups, they are often well qualified. In 2023, 22 per cent of people with a Syrian immigration history of working age (15-64 years) had a vocational qualification. Of these, 106,000 people have an academic degree. Around 19 per cent are still in (further) education.

# What does the change of power in Syria mean for Syrians seeking protection in Germany?

Many Syrians are afraid that they will soon have to leave Germany. And their friends and acquaintances as well as asylum helpers are now also worried. Many <u>specialised migration</u> <u>services</u> are also wondering what will happen in the future.

#### What will happen to the new asylum applications?

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) has stopped processing asylum applications from Syrians for the time being. The media report that this currently affects 47,270 applications.

The political situation and changes in Syria will continue to be monitored.

- Further information on this topic can be found at Mediendienst Integration
- Diakonie has compiled the most important questions and answers on the topic
- The labour market Institute for Employment Research (IAB) provides important data on the topic of integration into the labour market

### Forms of protection in the asylum system

### Have you had to flee your home country and are looking for protection in Germany?

Sometimes people have to flee their home country to escape violence, war and terror. Then they can seek protection in Germany. In order to be granted protection and be allowed to stay here, they must apply for asylum.

#### Can refugees be deported even if they have protection status?

People with protection status cannot normally be deported. There are different forms of protection that are regulated by law.

#### How is it checked what type of protection they receive?





The form of protection depends on the individual situation of the refugee. Which form of protection a person receives depends on their individual situation. And on the type of persecution in their country of origin.

#### What forms of protection are there?

There are different forms of protection. Here is a brief overview:

## **Eligibility for asylum**

The right to asylum is laid down in Article 16 A of the Basic Law (Grundgesetz - GG) of the Federal Republic of Germany. According to this, politically persecuted people are granted asylum. They can receive this protection status if they have been persecuted by the state in their country of origin because of

- their ethnicity
- · their nationality
- · their political convictions
- · their religious beliefs or
- their membership of a particular social group (for example, because of their sexual orientation)

And if they would face serious human rights violations due to this state persecution as soon as they return to their home country.

Further information from the BAMF can be found here.

## Refugee protection

Refugee protection is more comprehensive than the right to asylum. It is based on the Geneva Refugee Convention. According to this convention, people are considered refugees if they are affected by state **or** non-state persecution. Characteristics of persecution can be

- ethnicity
- · religion
- nationality
- · political conviction
- Belonging to a certain social group (for example due to sexual orientation)

Legal basis: § 3 para. of the Asylum Act (AsylG)

Further information from the BAMF can be found here.

## **Subsidiary protection**

Subsidiary protection applies if a refugee cannot be granted refugee protection or asylum. If this person is threatened with serious harm in their country of origin, they can be granted subsidiary protection.





The threat can come from both governmental and non-governmental sources. These include

- · Death penalty
- torture
- inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- serious individual threat to the life or integrity of a civilian as a result of indiscriminate violence in an international or internal armed conflict

Legal basis: § 4 para. 1 AsylG

Further information from the BAMF can be found here.

## National ban on deportation

A person seeking protection may not be deported if

- repatriation would violate the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) or
- there is a considerable concrete danger to life, limb or freedom in the country of destination.

Legal basis: Section 60 (5) AufenthG, Section 60 (7) AufenthG

Further information from the BAMF can be found here.

An asylum procedure is very individual and complex. Each case must be examined individually.

#### How does an asylum procedure work?

You can find more detailed information on the German asylum procedure at 🏵 <u>Federal Office</u> <u>for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)</u> in the brochure "Ablauf des deutschen Asylverfahrens".

Or <u>here</u> in our app.

#### 1. registration and accommodation

### Registration

#### Are you new in Germany and need asylum?

Then you must register as soon as you arrive in Germany. You can do this at one of these offices:

- · Border authority
- the police
- · Immigration office
- · Reception centre for refugees or
- Branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)





The personal data is registered and stored centrally. It is checked whether you:

- · are applying for asylum in Germany for the first time
- have already applied for asylum in another European country
- your data is known to the Federal Criminal Police Office.

After the data has been checked, you will receive proof of arrival. It shows that you have been registered. Only then can the asylum procedure begin.

#### **Accommodation**

### Where can I live after my arrival?

People who apply for asylum in Germany must live in an initial reception centre for up to three months after their arrival. This is stipulated by law.

The reception centre in which they are accommodated depends on their country of origin. Asylum applications from different countries of origin are processed at the various BAMF branch offices. All asylum seekers are then distributed evenly among the various federal states in Germany.

#### Will I receive money while I am in the asylum procedure?

While you are waiting for a decision on your asylum application, you will receive financial support from the social welfare office of your city council or local authority. This is called basic security.

Anyone wishing to apply must state whether they have any valuables or money. They also have to sign a number of documents and declarations.

They are then given a new appointment. They must bring all their papers and proof of arrival with them to this appointment. It is usually a good idea to have someone with you who can translate.

As soon as you arrive in the district, you will be told where you should live. You will live there for the duration of the asylum procedure.

**Important:** Asylum seekers are not allowed to leave the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate! This is called "spatial restriction".

## Do you urgently need to leave the state of Rhineland-Palatinate for a short period of time?

The foreigners authority must authorise this in urgent cases. You will need an exit permit for this. It is valid for three months after registration (see  $\blacksquare$  <u>BüMA</u>).

After the three months, there are no longer any spatial restrictions. Asylum seekers can then move around freely in Germany. However, it is still stipulated where they must live (residence requirement).





There are rest periods in the accommodation and everywhere in Germany. These can often be found in the "house rules" of the accommodation. These house rules regulate how people live together.

You can find sample house rules at nere.

#### 2. application for asylum

## Applying for asylum in person

#### Would you like to apply for asylum?

After your arrival in Germany, you must register with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). You will be registered there. This means that your personal data (such as name and date of birth) will be recorded. The BAMF stores this data. You will then be accommodated in an initial reception centre. You can then apply for asylum. You will be given an appointment for this.

You must submit your application to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BaMF) at the branch office in Speyer.

#### You don't speak German very well yet and need help?

A translator will help you so that you can understand everything during your interview with the BAMF staff and explain your reasons for seeking asylum.

Important: You can only apply for asylum in person. You must go to the BAMF yourself. It is not possible to submit an application by post!

#### Federal Office for Migration and Refugees - Speyer branch office

Spaldinger Straße 100, 67346 Speyer

#### You have submitted an application for asylum. What happens next?

After you have applied for asylum, you will receive a <u>residence permit</u>. The residence permit shows that you have applied for asylum. With the residence permit, you are allowed to stay in Germany for the time being. You may stay until you have received a decision on your application for asylum.

#### Asylum procedure counselling

#### Are you unsure about what you need to bear in mind when applying for asylum?

Then it can help if you seek counselling beforehand. The counselling can provide you with important information for the asylum procedure.

There are many local advice centres for this.

Click here for the local advice centres.





## Registering with the immigration office

#### What do you have to do after you have applied for asylum at the BAMF?

After you have submitted your application for asylum to the BAMF, you must report directly to the immigration office. The foreigners authority will issue your identity card (Aufenthaltsgestattung). You must always have your identity card with you.

#### What applies to children who still have to go to school?

Children between the ages of 6 and 15 are required to attend school. They must attend school and are not allowed to stay at home. Children must be registered with the Immigration Office. And they must be enrolled at school.

Please note: The children must first be registered with the Immigration Office. Only then can you make an appointment for a counselling session at the education authority, where they will check which school your child can attend. Only then can the child be registered for school.

#### Do you live in the initial reception centre (Afa) in Speyer?

Then the branch office of the Foreigners' Registration Office is responsible for you. The Foreigners' Registration Office deals with local immigration law issues. It does not provide counselling on general questions of immigration law. It only deals with your application for asylum.

#### Do you live in the district of Germersheim?

Then the <u>Foreigners' Registration Office of the Germersheim District Administration</u> is responsible for you. You must register there.

The Foreigners' Registration Office is also responsible, for example, for

- · issuing identity cards,
- · applying for a work permit,
- · the residence permit,
- special authorisation for travel
- · and much more.

# Contact persons for questions relating to immigration law for asylum seekers at the Speyer Immigration Office - Speyer branch office

### Außenstelle Afa Speyer - Asyl

- Spaldinger Straße 100, 67346 Speyer
- @asylangelegenheiten-afa@stadt-speyer.de
- **4**+49 (0) 6232141160
- https://www.speyer.de/de/buergerservice/abteilung...

Contact person at the foreigners authority in the district of Germersheim





#### Ausländerbehörde

**♀**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim

https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/buergerservice/j...

Mrs Thomas

**\**07274/53321

Mr Klein

**\**07274/53313

@asylrecht@kreis-germersheim.de

**Important:** As it is currently difficult to reach the Foreigners' Registration Office by telephone, please send an e-mail. You will then be given an appointment.

## Residence obligation

Have you been in Germany for less than 3 months? Are you still living in the AfA Speyer and your application for asylum has not yet been processed?

As long as a decision has not yet been made on your asylum application, you must remain in your home district. You are not allowed to simply leave the district in which your reception centre is located. This is called spatial restriction or residence obligation.

If you have to leave the area for a shorter period of time, you need a permit from the BAMF. This applies for the first 3 months.

Have you been in Germany for longer than 3 months? And you now live in the district of Germersheim?

At the end of the 3 months, you have normally left the initial reception centre. You now live in the district of Germersheim. The Foreigners' Registration Office of the Germersheim district is now responsible. If you want to leave the district, the foreigners authority must give its consent.

How long are you not allowed to leave the district of Germersheim?

The geographical restriction applies for different lengths of time. It depends on the country you have come from. And also on the progress of your asylum procedure.

The BAMF has decided on your application. The asylum procedure has been completed. What happens now?

Depending on how the BAMF has decided, there are now three different paths for you:

- You have been granted asylum: you will then be distributed to the municipalities in Rhineland-Palatinate. The transfer office of the ADD is responsible for the distribution. The transfer office will liaise with the local foreigners authority
- Your asylum application has been rejected: you must return to your home country





Your asylum application has been rejected because you have already been
registered in another European country: in this case, a different procedure will be
carried out. This is called the <u>Dublin procedure</u>. You must return to the European member
state from which you came. This is called repatriation.

The **Dublin procedure** is regulated in the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The procedure determines which European member state is responsible for you. There are objective criteria for the assessment. The aim of the procedure is to ensure that every application for asylum within the European Union is examined (only) once.

#### Would you like to return to your home country voluntarily?

The foreigners authority can advise you on voluntary <u>return</u>. It can support you in organising your departure. The Foreigners' Registration Office can also advise you on possible grants.

## Register with the citizens' office of your municipal or local authority

If you have been transferred from the AfA to a municipality in the district of Germersheim, you must register immediately at the <u>citizens' registration office</u> of the municipal administration or the local authority administration. The residents' registration offices will issue you with a registration certificate. Anyone who is new to a municipality or wants to leave it must register at the residents' registration office. Your data (name and address) will be stored there.

## Change of address

#### Are you still in the asylum process? And you want or need to move?

Sometimes asylum seekers receive authorisation or an obligation to move during the asylum procedure. In this case, they must inform the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees of their new address themselves.

**Important note**: You must send a copy of the registration confirmation by post to the initial reception centre in Trier.

### Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Branch Office M A 7 - Trier

#### **Außenstelle Trier**

**Q** Dasbachstraße 15b, 54292 Trier

**4**+49 (0) 91194373340

### 3. Dublin Regulation

The Dublin Regulation encompasses the area of the 28 EU member states as well as Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. It determines which country is responsible for the implementation of the asylum procedure. As a rule, it is the country where the asylum seekers were first registered. An electronic data collation takes place to do this.





If it has been determined that Germany is not responsible for conducting the asylum procedure, the asylum seekers are sent back to the country responsible for them.

If asylum seekers do not agree with this decision, there is the possibility to get professional legal advice on whether it makes sense to file a complaint with the administrative court.

Further information about the Dublin Accord in German and English.

## 4. hearing

#### **Personal interview**

The personal interview is the **most important appointment** in the asylum procedure. Asylum seekers receive an invitation to attend. An interpreter is present at the interview who can translate.

At the personal interview, asylum seekers explain why they had to flee their country. They are asked many questions.

For example, questions about

- · their biography,
- · their living situation,
- their journey to Germany
- and the reasons for your persecution in your country of origin

If it is possible for you, you should also provide evidence for your story in the personal interview.

The hearing will be conducted by specialised staff.

#### Can I bring someone with me to the appointment?

It is possible for you to bring someone with you. They can accompany you to the appointment. This person can be

- a lawyer
- a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- another person of trust. This person must not be involved in an asylum procedure themselves
- in the case of unaccompanied minors, the guardian may attend the interview.

The statements are translated. A protocol is drawn up. The narrations are then translated back again. This gives the applicants another opportunity to make additions and corrections. Finally, the minutes are presented to the asylum seekers together with the recordings. If everything is presented correctly, they confirm this with their signature.

The BAMF then decides on your asylum application and sends the asylum seeker a decision. The decision is explained in detail.

Is the date of the interview important?





You **must attend the interview without fail**. It can only be postponed in exceptional cases.

#### Would you like to postpone the date?

Then it is important that you let us know in writing in good time. You must also provide a reason why you cannot attend. If you cancel too late or do not provide an explanation, your asylum application may be rejected or the procedure may be discontinued.

You can find more information about the interview here

#### Preparation for the interview

- Advice and support can be obtained from the <u>contact points for asylum advice/procedural</u> <u>counselling</u>.
- Information on the hearing date, BaMF
- Hearing support, Arrival Aid
- Collection of material on the personal interview.

# The information film on the subject of hearings is currently available in 10 languages:

- German
- English
- French
- Kurmanci
- Albanian
- Arabic
- Macedonian
- Bosnian
- Farsi
- <u>Serbian</u>

#### 5th decision

#### BAMF decision on the asylum application

After the person has been interviewed, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BaMF) examines all descriptions, information and evidence. It checks whether one of the four forms of protection applies. The basis for the examination is the Asylum Act:

- 1. Eligibility for asylum
- 2. Refugee protection
- 3. Subsidiary protection
- 4. Ban on deportation

If none of the forms of protection are considered, the asylum application is rejected.





The decision is justified in writing. It is then sent as a "notification" to

- the person who submitted the application
- or a person who has a power of attorney for the procedure (e.g. a lawyer).
- the responsible immigration authority.

#### **Approval**

#### Your asylum application has been approved. What do you need to do now?

You have been recognised as a person entitled to protection. You have received a favourable decision.

The next steps are now:

- Fictitious certificate or electronic residence permit (eAT): Immediately after you have
  received the letter from the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum that you have been
  granted asylum in Germany, you will need an identity document. The identity document or
  something similar will be issued by the <u>foreigners authority</u>.
- · You are now authorised to work in Germany. And without restrictions
- If you do not have a job or need help, you will no longer receive money from the social welfare office. You must now submit an application to the job centre.

## Rejection

### Your application has been rejected. What happens now?

If the decision is negative, i.e. if your asylum application has been rejected, you will be threatened with deportation. You will be asked to leave the Federal Republic of Germany by a certain date. If you do not leave voluntarily, you must expect to be deported under duress.

There are two different types of refusal:

- 1. Simple refusal: people must leave the country within 30 days.
- 2. Rejection as "manifestly unfounded": in this case, you must leave the country within one week

## **Appeal**

## What can you do if you do not agree with the rejection?

If you have submitted an application and it has been rejected, you can appeal against the decision. It is important that you take action very quickly as soon as you receive the letter of rejection. The deadlines and legal options available to you are set out in the letter (also known as the decision) from the BaMF. The information contained in this decision is called "Rechtsbehelfbelehrungen" (legal remedies)





#### Do you need help with your asylum procedure?

The <u>asylum procedure counselling</u> service can help and support you. If you want to take legal action, you should always seek advice and representation from a lawyer specialising in asylum and residence law.

## Voluntary departure

#### Have you decided to leave the country voluntarily?

If you decide to leave voluntarily, you can receive financial support for a new start in your home country. Information on this can be obtained from a contact point for return counselling.

Important: Inform the immigration office as soon as possible about your plan to leave voluntarily.

## 6. legal action

The BAMF decides on the asylum application. Sometimes an asylum application is rejected. If the asylum seeker does not agree with this, he or she can appeal against the decision. In this case, the asylum seeker is called the "plaintiff" or "claimant". The BAMF is called the "defendant". If the complaint is accepted, the administrative court reviews the decision of the Federal Office.

There can be two different outcomes to a claim:

- 1. The court decides in favour of the claimant/plaintiff. They get justice. They are entitled to protection after all. Then they are granted a residence permit after all
- The court decides against the claimant. The claim is rejected. The court confirms the rejection of the asylum application by the BAMF. This means that the claimant is still obliged to leave Germany.

There is another special form: some people receive a positive decision. This means they are granted asylum. And yet they do not agree and want to lodge a complaint. This may be the case, for example, if the claimant does not agree with the form of protection he or she is to receive. In this case, the claimant can also lodge an appeal against the BAMF's decision. However, this is not possible if refugee status is granted.

In any case, it is always advisable to seek advice and representation from a lawyer specialising in asylum and residence law.

- BAMF appeal procedure legal remedies against the decision
- Refugee Council Baden-Württemberg
- Application assistance sample complaints Refugee Council Isa

#### 7. return counselling

## **Counselling on voluntary return**





If you apply for asylum, you sometimes receive a rejection. This means that you are not allowed to stay in Germany. You will be given a date by which you must leave Germany. There are then two options:

- 1. You leave Germany voluntarily by the specified date
- 2. You stay and are deported by the immigration authorities

If you decide to return voluntarily, you will not be forced to return home or to a safe third country. People who are already resident in Germany can leave voluntarily.

Voluntary return can offer you new opportunities and prospects in your country of origin. If you return voluntarily, you have the option of receiving financial support from the German state.

## What are the advantages of voluntary return?

You can set the date of your departure yourself. You leave the country without the authorities accompanying you to the airport. The costs of travelling to your country of origin can be covered.

How much support you can receive for your return depends, among other things, on your nationality.

#### What support is available?

Possible support benefits in detail are

- Flight ticket or bus ticket
- Travel costs from your place of residence to the airport or (bus) station
- Money for the journey (travel allowance)
- Medical support: during the trip and in the destination country (for up to three months after arrival in the destination country)
- One-off support
- Depending on the case: one-off special amount for early departure

### Who can apply for support for voluntary return?

Third-country nationals can apply for support,

- who have applied for asylum but have not yet submitted a legally valid asylum application
- · who are in the asylum procedure,
- whose asylum application has been rejected and who are demonstrably obliged to leave the country,
- · who are entitled to asylum
- · who have a tolerated stay permit,
- who have been granted residence for reasons of international law, humanitarian or political reasons,
- who have travelled to Germany through family reunification. Sometimes the person him/herself is not eligible for support. However, they can still apply for sponsorship if they have travelled to Germany to join a person who is eligible for sponsorship.





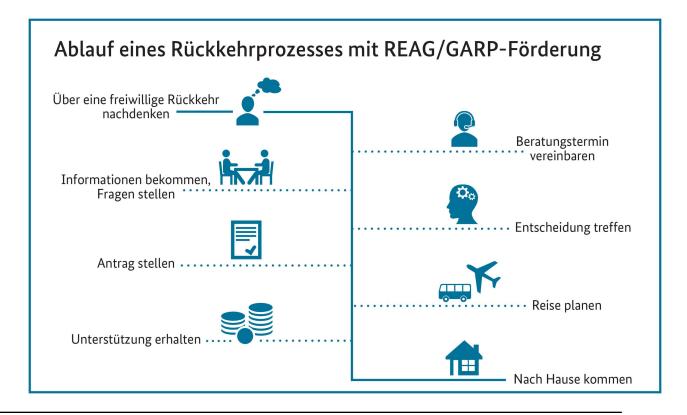
EU nationals who have been victims of forced prostitution or human trafficking are also eligible for sponsorship.

#### Are you considering returning to your home country?

Then a counselling centre can help you. The Central Return Counselling Centre (ZRB) provides advice on the options for voluntary departure. Here you can get help and ask questions. The counselling takes place before the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) decides on the asylum application. Many questions can be asked during the counselling session. You can also seek advice if, for example, you do not have enough money for your return journey. Or if you need a passport.

#### Do I have to leave the country in any case after counselling?

The counselling is open-ended. This means that you do not have to leave voluntarily after the counselling session. You decide for yourself whether you want to leave or stay.



### Where can you get counselling about a possible return?

If you are considering voluntary return, you will certainly have many questions. The advice centres can help you here. You can discuss your own options with them. The counselling sessions are free of charge and confidential. The information is not passed on.

#### What are possible questions during return counselling?

- · How should I organise my return journey?
- How can I earn a living?
- Where should I live after my return?
- Who will issue me with the necessary travel documents?





In this situation, it is particularly important for you to receive confidential and comprehensive counselling. You need a lot of information to be able to make a good decision. It is important to know what options you have and how realistic they are. This also includes knowing the situation in your country of origin and the funding options as precisely as possible. A counselling session can help you with this.

## **Return counselling centres**

There are various counselling centres that can advise you on your return. Some of them are

- Return counselling from the Germersheim district administration's immigration office
- Return counselling from the <u>SOLWODI return and reintegration project</u>, especially for women from developing countries
- Return counselling at the Caritas Centre Ludwigshafen
- Return competence centre of the Diak. Centre for Return of the Diak. Werk Trier and Simmern-Trarbach gGmbH
- International Organisation for Migration <u>Leaflet on return and reintegration counselling in</u> Rhineland-Palatinate
- International Organisation for Migration ZIRF-Counselling
- Further information from the <u>Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)</u> with the BAMF <u>Perspective flyer: Voluntary return</u>
- Sinformation portal on voluntary return Returning from Germany

#### Residence documents

#### Residence permit - flight / asylum

Every person who comes to Germany to apply for asylum receives a residence document. It is often referred to as an "identity card". The residence document states a person's status in the asylum procedure and whether or not he or she is allowed to work (When am I allowed to work?).

There are five different documents:

#### 1. proof of arrival

Status: Asylum seeker

People who apply for asylum receive a proof of arrival. It is valid for the time between the notification that a person is seeking asylum and the official application for asylum at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BaMF)







## 2. residence permit

Status: asylum seekers

As soon as a person applies for asylum, they receive a residence permit. This is valid until a decision has been made on the asylum application. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) decides on the asylum application.

If the asylum application is rejected, the person can appeal to the administrative court. Until the administrative court has decided whether the person will be granted asylum or not, they may continue to reside in Germany.

The residence permit contains various information: where the person is allowed to live (residence requirement), whether they are allowed to work (employment requirement) and in which area they are allowed to stay (spatial restriction).

- If a permit is required to work, this can be applied for at the <u>foreigners authority</u>. This application can be made either by the person who wants to go to work (employee) or by the boss (employer).
- The employment agency has the task of helping with the search for and placement in work
- The <u>social welfare office</u> pays out financial assistance (social benefits)



#### 3. fictitious certificate

Status: Recognised refugees

The asylum application has been examined and the person is granted asylum in Germany. A fictitious certificate is then issued first. It is valid for the transition: until the person receives their residence permit (fictional authorisation). Or for the period in which documents are to be checked or extended (fictitious continued validity).







## 4. residence permit

Status: Recognised refugees

Background: positive decision on the asylum application

If a person is granted asylum in Germany, a residence permit is issued after the fictitious decision. It is not valid forever but is limited to a certain period of time. The residence permit states why the person has been granted asylum in Germany. There are various residence permits for refugees on humanitarian grounds.

- If a person has been granted a residence permit, they may later be granted a permanent right of residence (settlement permit)
- With a residence permit, the person can work anywhere. Access to the labour market is not further restricted.
- The job centre is responsible for job placement and social benefits

#### 5. toleration

Status: Tolerated persons

If the asylum application has been rejected, the person must leave Germany. However, if this is not possible for certain reasons (legal, factual, humanitarian, personal), deportation is temporarily suspended. Asylum seekers receive a tolerated stay permit and are allowed to remain in Germany for a certain period of time.

- The tolerated stay permit can generally only be issued for a maximum of 3 months ("deportation stop")
- If you want to work, you need a permit. This can be applied for at the <u>foreigners authority</u> (by employers or employees)
- The employment agency is responsible for job placement
- Social benefits are paid out by the social welfare office

## Opportunity right of residence (from 31 December 2022)

#### What is the right of residence?

The right of residence opportunity gives some refugees the chance of a permanent right of residence. However, they must fulfil certain requirements.

#### Why was it introduced?





In the past, refugees were often repeatedly issued with tolerated stays, so-called chain tolerations. In the case of a chain toleration, a person's toleration status is repeatedly extended. But they are not granted residence status. The tolerated stay only states that a person may not be deported at the moment.

This procedure has been brought to an end with the right to residence on the basis of opportunities.

#### How many people are affected by the new law?

The regulation affects around 136,000 people in Germany who are already well integrated.

#### What are the requirements for the right of residence?

In order to be granted the right of residence, you must:

- have been living in Germany for five years on 31 October 2022 with a tolerated stay permit, a temporary residence permit or a residence permit
- You must not have committed a criminal offence
- you must be committed to the free democratic basic order

There is a special regulation for well-integrated young people and adolescents. They can receive a residence permit after just three years of residence. This applies until they have reached the age of 27.

#### What are the advantages of the right of residence?

Those affected receive a right of residence for 18 months. During this time, they have the opportunity to fulfil all the requirements for permanent residence in Germany.

#### Can the right of residence be extended?

The right of residence cannot be extended after this period. If you do not manage to obtain a residence permit during this time (18 months), you will slip back into the tolerated status.

#### What do you need to obtain the right of residence?

You must fulfil these conditions for this right of residence:

- You need a job that allows you to support yourself
- You need a good knowledge of the German language
- · You must be able to prove your identity

## How long is the right of residence for?

The right of residence with opportunities is enshrined in the Residence Act for three years from 31 December 2022. You therefore have until 31 December 2025 to apply for the Right of Residence with Opportunity.

### What other changes have been made with the right of residence?

The Right of Residence with Opportunities opened up integration courses for asylum seekers right from the start. The federal government now allows anyone to attend an integration





course or vocational language course. No matter which country they come from. Or when they arrived in Germany.

- Further information from the Federal Government can be found <u>here</u>.
- Communication from the <u>German Bundestag</u>
- Handbook Germany
- FAQ Pro Asyl

The Federal Ministry of the Interior has created a fact sheet on the right of residence. This is available in many different languages:

- Albanian translation
- Arabic translation
- Armenian translation
- Dari translation
- English translation
- Farsi translation
- · French translation
- · Georgian translation
- Hindi translation
- Kurdish-Kurmanci translation
- Kurdish-Sorani translation
- · Macedonian translation
- Pashto translation
- Russian translation
- Serbian-Cyrillic translation
- <u>Serbian-Latin translation</u>
- Somali translation
- Turkish translation
- Urdu translation

# Family asylum, international protection for family members and unaccompanied minor refugees

## Family asylum

If someone in Germany has a right to protection, their family can also apply for asylum. This allows them to receive the same protection status (asylum authorisation, refugee status or subsidiary protection). The family members must submit an application for this.

#### Which family members are granted family asylum?

- Spouses or registered partners
- underage children who are not married themselves (unmarried)
- Parents of underage unmarried children if they have custody of them





- other adults who have custody of the unmarried minor children
- · unmarried siblings of minors, if they are also minors

For spouses or life partners to be covered by family asylum, the couple must

- the couple must already have been married or living in a partnership in their country of origin
- the application for asylum must have been made before or at the same time as the person entitled to protection. Or at the latest directly after entry
- · the entitlement to protection cannot be contested
- · the entitlement to protection cannot be revoked

## **Born in Germany**

If a child is born in Germany after the parents have applied for asylum, a separate asylum procedure must be carried out for the child. It is important that at least the father or mother is still in the asylum procedure.

The parents or the immigration authority must then inform the Federal Office of the birth. The asylum application is then automatically deemed to have been submitted. The parents can submit their own grounds for asylum for their child. If they do not do so, the same grounds apply as for the parents. If the Federal Office rejects the decision, the parents can appeal against it in court.

In order to protect children under the age of 18, they may not be deported without their parents. This also applies if the asylum application has been rejected.

Further information can be found directly at the BAMF.

#### **Deadline regulation**

**Important note**: For people who are granted protection in an asylum procedure (see list above), a time limit applies: Once the decision to recognise them has been made and can no longer be contested, the family must submit an application for family reunification. This must be submitted to the competent authorities (diplomatic mission in the country of residence of your family members and the foreigners authority in Germersheim) within **three months of recognition**. In this case, the other requirements do not necessarily have to be met. This means that you do not necessarily have to be able to pay for your own living expenses. Nor do they necessarily have to have sufficient living space.

Further information on family reunification for persons with protection status can be found here:

- Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)
- Federal Foreign Office (German, English, Arabic)
- Foreigners' Registration Office.





# Unaccompanied minor refugees (refugee children under the age of 18)

The Federal Association for Unaccompanied Minor Refugees (BumF) has been supporting refugee children, young people and adolescents since 1998. The federal association is a non-profit organisation. It is independent. It is committed to young people and their support.

The federal association offers help for young refugees. It also supports professionals and volunteers. Its aim is to ensure that young refugees can grow up without fear, marginalisation and discrimination. They should be given the same rights as all other young people.

# Missing children and young people on the run (Missing Children Europe App)

Children and young people repeatedly go missing while fleeing. At the beginning of 2023, 2009 children and young people were registered as missing in Germany (source: Federal Criminal Police Office).

What happens to them is unclear. In the worst case, they live illegally and without protection. Or they have hardly any access to support and information.

But many children have a smartphone. This is why Missing Children Europe has developed the **Maniila app**. It is aimed directly at unaccompanied children and young people on the run. The app is designed to help them obtain valuable information, services and support independently.

The Federal Association BumF has been coordinating the app since April 2020. It helps to integrate organisations into the app that can help and support with their services. The offers are displayed on a map. There are several categories and subcategories. These include, for example, accommodation, food, asylum, help for girls and wifi. The app is available in several languages (English, French, Arabic, Farsi, Tigrinya and German)

- Federal Association of Unaccompanied Refugee Minors
- Missing Children Europe
- Maniila App
- Child Rescue App

## **Hardship Commission Rhineland-Palatinate**

## My asylum application was rejected. But I have reasons why I cannot leave the country. What can I do?

In this case, you can contact the Rhineland-Palatinate Hardship Commission.

#### What is the Hardship Commission?

The Hardship Commission is a committee of experts. It is not dependent on an authority. It advises on whether people are allowed to stay in Germany, even if they are actually obliged to leave the country. The commission consists of twelve members.

**How can the Hardship Commission help?** 





In individual cases, the Hardship Commission examines whether there are reasons why the person cannot leave the country. These may be urgent humanitarian or personal reasons, for example.

#### How does the Hardship Commission decide?

The commission discusses the case presented. It decides whether there are sufficient reasons for the person to be allowed to stay in Germany. If at least two thirds of the members of the commission decide in favour, it passes on its recommendation.

The commission asks the Ministry for Family Affairs, Women, Culture and Integration to review the case. This is called a "hardship application". If the Ministry agrees, it can instruct the responsible immigration authority to issue a residence permit. The foreigners authority must then issue a residence permit in accordance with Section 23a of the Residence Act. Sometimes certain conditions or requirements are attached to this.

#### How can I apply for an examination?

A member or deputy member of the Hardship Commission must submit an application in order for the Hardship Commission to deal with a case under immigration law.

Foreign nationals from Rhineland-Palatinate can apply in writing to a member or deputy member. They must explain why they cannot leave Germany.

It is possible to be represented at the commission by lawyers, care facilities, refugee associations or other organisations and other third parties.

#### Does the Hardship Commission have to deal with every case?

No. The members and deputy members of the Hardship Commission decide independently. They are free from instructions. They decide for themselves whether the facts of the case are suitable for discussion by the Commission. There is no right to have the Hardship Commission deal with a case.

#### What documents do I need for an application?

- · Personal details
- Declaration of consent that the Hardship Commission may process the personal data
- As detailed a list as possible of the reasons why you cannot leave Germany
- Proof of any illnesses that prevent you from leaving the country
- Information on how you will secure your livelihood; also health insurance
- Proof of integration benefits
- Proof of previous employment of all family members
- For school pupils: school reports from the last two years
- For young people who are no longer required to attend school: Proof of school leaving certificates, training contracts, application procedures
- Photocopies of existing passports, other identification documents and tolerated stay permits

Further detailed information on the Hardship Commission and how to apply can be found at there





#### **Contact person**

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### Refugee children and young people without parents

Sometimes children and young people under the age of 18 (minors) come to Germany alone from abroad. Then the Youth Welfare Office takes care of them first. It talks to the minors. And it investigates how old they are. In the case of minors, the Youth Welfare Office is still responsible and looks after the children and young people. If it is established that someone is over 18 years old (i.e. an adult), the person is no longer looked after by the Youth Welfare Office.

Sometimes minors do not travel with their parents. Instead, they travel with other family members, for example their uncle or aunt, cousins or older siblings. You then have two options:

- Relatives who have reached the age of majority can apply to the family court for guardianship. With guardianship, the relatives assume full responsibility for the minor.
   They therefore represent the parents. Information brochure "Your guardian represents you" (pdf) / brochure in Arabic / brochure in English or
- 2. Relatives **can take over the right of guardianship** . Parents can transfer the right informally.

In these two cases, the minors can remain with their families. Only if the relatives reject both options will the minors be looked after by the Youth Welfare Office. The Youth Welfare Office also intervenes if the minors are in danger with their families or are being threatened there. They are then treated in the same way as children and young people who arrive in Germany on their own (see above).



# Magdalena Russ | Allgemeiner Sozialer Dienst - Minderjährige Ausländerinnen und Ausländer

**Q**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim

@m.russ@kreis-germersheim.de

+49 (0) 7274531232



Further information and help for refugee children and young people can be found here

#### **Services**

## **Benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act**

As soon as asylum seekers move from the initial reception centre (AfA) to the local authority (city or municipality), the latter is also responsible. It must look after the asylum seekers.

Asylum seekers receive basic benefits. The Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG) regulates exactly who gets what. Asylum seekers do not receive money, but benefits in kind. These include

- Accommodation
- · household effects
- · household items
- · heating
- · electricity

Asylum seekers receive money directly for other necessary items. These basic benefits are for

- · Food and drink
- clothing
- health care
- pocket money for personal needs

Normally, the accommodation that people move into after AfA is already furnished. This means there is furniture and other household necessities. Almost all accommodation centres offer the option of cooking for yourself.

Who gets how much money is precisely regulated. This is set out in the standard needs level. It depends, for example, on what benefits in kind someone has already received.

Travelling expenses normally have to be covered by the pocket money. For journeys that are necessary, the district pays the costs. This may be the case, for example, if people have to travel to fulfil their duty to cooperate in the asylum procedure. Journeys to obtain a passport or for counselling regarding a possible return are also paid for. To do this, you must apply for the travelling expenses from the city administration or the association municipalities.

The money is normally paid out directly in cash twice a month.

- Further information on the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act can be found here.
- Detailed information on the benefits can be found on the website of the <u>Ministry of the Interior of Rhineland-Palatinate</u>.





## **Payment card**

The district will introduce the payment card for refugees.

Many refugees do not have enough money to live on. They receive support in Germany. This assistance is called benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act. Refugees can receive things they need, or they receive cash or vouchers.

Now there is a new option: the payment card. Money can be loaded onto this card.

Until now, refugees living in shared accommodation have mostly been given things that are bought directly for them. This means they do not receive cash.

People who do not live in shared accommodation are usually given cash so that they can buy things themselves.

A new law is now changing how this support is given. With the payment card, the federal states and cities can decide better how to help. The authority responsible for the support decides how much money can be withdrawn with the payment card. It can adapt the assistance to people's needs.

The district of Germersheim will introduce the payment card for refugees. This was decided by the district council in March. The payment card will be introduced in August at the earliest. The district is working with other federal states to find a standardised solution.

The payment card is a debit card that is not linked to a bank account. It can be used to pay in shops without cash or to withdraw money from cash machines. However, the card cannot be used abroad and cannot be used to make bank transfers.

"We are now waiting for further information from the country. We want to avoid going it alone, including the awarding procedure, but rather benefit from the synergy effects of a joint approach with the state and local authorities," says District Administrator Brechtel.

### Basic security for jobseekers / unemployment benefit II

Once a person has been recognised as a refugee or asylum seeker and has received a residence permit from the immigration authorities, they **no** longer receive any further benefits under the AsylbLG.

**Once the asylum procedure has been completed**, the Germersheim <u>Job Centre</u> is responsible. The job centre is responsible for ensuring her livelihood and arranging employment. The money according to the AsylblG is paid out for the last time in the month in which the recognition was issued. It is therefore important to submit an application to the relevant job centre in good time.

Further information on basic income support and the application documents for applying for subsistence benefits can be found at here.

### **Jobcenter**

**Q** Waldstraße 13, 76726 Germersheim





#### **4**+49 (0) 727470110

https://www.jobcenter-germersheim.de/

## Opening hours:

For short requests (picking up forms, handing in documents)

Monday to Friday, 08:00 - 12:30h

Available by telephone:

Monday to Friday, 08:00 - 12:30h

Monday to Thursday, 14:00 - 16:00h

The benefits department is closed on Tuesdays

#### Further information:

- Work and career
- Unemployment benefit II / Social benefit

## **Exemption from the licence fee**

In Germany, there are radio, television and online programmes that are independent. They are therefore allowed to report on all topics. Politicians or other powers are not allowed to decide how to speak. This applies to all topics, including, for example, the state of Germany, politics or religion.

The programmes and contributions report freely and independently. They must not be influenced by politics or business. Everyone in Germany pays money for this service. This is called the licence fee.

Asylum seekers do not have to pay a <u>licence fee</u>. They can use the programme free of charge. It is important that you submit an <u>application for exemption</u>.

- Information on the licence fee for asylum seekers and persons entitled to asylum can be found here
- Further information can be found here.
- Click here for further information on health care.

## **Support groups**

## Citizens' Initiative Refugee Aid Rülzheim e.V.

The Rülzheim Refugee Office helps people who have had to flee their home country. It helps with problems, questions and letters. Local people (called sponsors) accompany and advise the refugees. They help people who have recently arrived in Germany: They give language





lessons or collect household goods and clothes and distribute them. They also provide bicycles or repair them together with the refugees.

Every third Sunday of the month there is a coffee afternoon in the Bürgerkeller of the Rülzheim town hall. Anyone and everyone can come along. This is a good opportunity to get to know the citizens' initiative.

## Bürgerinitiative Flüchtlingshilfe Rülzheim e.V. - Beratung

- **♀**Eisenbahnstraße 32, 76761 Rülzheim
- @bif@ruelzheim.de
- +49 (0) 15734501513
- https://www.ruelzheim.de/vg\_ruelzheim/de/Leben%20...

## Bürgerinitiative Flüchtlingshilfe Rülzheim e.V. - Kleiderspende

- **♀**Eisenbahnstraße 32, 76761 Rülzheim
- @bif@ruelzheim.de
- **4**+49 (0) 15150590014
- https://www.ruelzheim.de/vg\_ruelzheim/de/Leben%20...
- 15:00 to 17:00

### Would you like to come along?

The dates are published in the local newsletter (every second week in odd weeks) and on Facebook. Please keep an eye out for changes.

## Help portal of the city of Germersheim

## Are you from Ukraine and need help? Or do you live in the Germersheim district and want to help?

Then take a look at the help portal of the city of Germersheim. This is where the town of Germersheim offers support for those seeking help and those providing help. The portal is designed to bring them together in an uncomplicated way.

Help portal Ukraine

#### Search service

The search service helps people in their worldwide search for relatives and advises on all questions of reuniting family members. The search service is a starting point for people who do not know where their relatives are due to current wars and armed conflicts, disasters, resettlement, flight, expulsion and migration. The search service supports people who have





been involuntarily separated from one another and dispersed in different countries and who wish to live together again in one country.

# **International Search Service**

- Search Service at the German Red Cross
- International search service at the Red Cross / Red Crescent Soc.

#### **Naturalisation**

### Do you want to obtain German citizenship?

This is possible if you have been living in Germany legally and habitually for at least five years. Further requirements are:

- · Your identity must be established
- You must belong to a state. You must not be stateless.
- · You have an unlimited right of residence or a permanent residence permit
- You are committed to the free democratic basic order of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany
- You acknowledge Germany's special historical responsibility for the crimes of the National Socialists and their consequences
- · You have not been convicted of a criminal offence
- You are able to finance life for yourself and your family
- You have sufficient knowledge of the German language, at least level B1
- You are familiar with the legal system and the social order and living conditions in Germany
- You are not married to more than one person at the same time
- You respect the equal rights of men and women as set out in the Basic Law

#### Have you met all the requirements?

Then you have the opportunity to be naturalised.

Naturalisation makes you a German citizen. This gives you the same rights and obligations as all other Germans.

You can vote in local, state and federal elections. You can also run for political office yourself.

You can move freely within the European Union, as you are then a citizen of the Union.

You can travel outside Europe to many countries without a visa.

#### I would like to be naturalised. What do I have to do?

You can submit an application for naturalisation to the naturalisation office of the district administration. This is located at the foreigners authority.





#### Do I have to give up my previous citizenship when I apply for naturalisation?

You no longer have to give up your previous citizenship. With the new citizenship law of 27 June 2024, you have the right to hold multiple citizenships.

#### Can I also have my family naturalised?

Spouses and children can also be naturalised. This also applies if they have lived in Germany for a shorter period of time. Young people aged 16 and over can apply for naturalisation themselves.

#### Does everyone have to fulfil the same conditions for naturalisation?

There are different requirements for certain groups of people. This applies, for example, to persons entitled to asylum or persons who are married to a German. In some cases, they can also be naturalised after a shorter period of time in Germany.

Information on the various requirements can be obtained from the Naturalisation Office.

Contact:

Naturalisation Office

♥17er-Straße 1 (3rd floor)

76726 Germersheim

**Example 2** Here you will find the contact details of the staff and further information on naturalisation.

# **Further information**

- Ministry for Families, Women, Youth, Integration and Consumer Protection of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate (MFFJIV)
- Information in easy language

# Family reunification / family reunification

#### What is family reunification or family reunification?

People who already live in Germany may be able to bring their family from abroad to join them. This is called **family reunification**. Or **family reunification**. Normally, only members of the core family can move to Germany to join their family. These are spouses, underage children and parents of underage children.

# What conditions must you fulfil for family reunification?

If you come from a third country yourself and want to bring your family to Germany, you must

- have a secure residence status (i.e. a residence permit, an EU permanent residence permit or a settlement permit)
- have a place to live that is big enough for everyone and





- be able to support yourself and your family. You must therefore have enough money to live together and not need any support
- If spouses want to move in together, they must have basic German language skills. They must show proof of this before travelling to Germany.

#### Are there any exceptions to this rule?

There are exceptions if the family is moving in with a German citizen. Or if they are asylum seekers or GRC refugees.

There are also legal exceptions regarding proof of German language skills, including for persons entitled to asylum and GRC refugees.

The regulations also apply to registered civil partnerships of partners of the same sex (i.e. two men or two women).

#### Is it possible to bring my own parents or parents-in-law to Germany?

Since 1 March 2024, it has been possible for skilled workers to bring their own parents or parents-in-law to Germany. This is possible if they have received their residence permit as a skilled worker for the first time from 1 March 2024.

If spouses live together permanently in Germany, but only one of the partners is a skilled worker, a visa for the skilled worker's parents-in-law can also be applied for.

The following requirements must be met for a visa to join parents:

- The skilled worker has received one of the following residence titles for the first time on or after 1 March 2024:
- 1. EU Blue Card,
- 2. ICT card.
- 3. Residence permit pursuant to Sections 18a, 18b, 18c (3), Sections 18d, 18f, 19c (1) for employment as a senior employee, manager, company specialist, scientist, visiting scientist, engineer or technician in the research team of visiting scientists or as a teacher, pursuant to Section 19c (2) or (4) sentence 1 or Section 21 AufenthG.
- the skilled worker can support his/her parents or parents-in-law alone. Under certain circumstances, this also applies to other family members.

#### Where can you apply for family reunification?

You can apply for family reunification at your local <u>immigration office</u> at ①. You must submit all the necessary documents there. You must also submit a ②<u>declaration of commitment</u>. This declaration states that you will assume all costs for the person who wishes to join you in Germany. This means, for example, that you must also cover the costs of treatment in the event of illness. And also the costs of repatriation to your home country, if necessary.

# Would you like to find out more about family reunification? And how family reunification can take place?

The Asylum and Migration Information Network has compiled a fact sheet on family reunification. This should give you an initial overview. Here you can find out which groups of





people are entitled to family reunification in Germany. It also lists the different procedures for reuniting families (as of March 2018).

The information sheet is available in German, English, Arabic and Tigrinya:

# Leaflet

A UNHCR video explains family reunification in simple terms.

You can find more information at here

### Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) is an important authority in Germany. There are many branch offices of this authority throughout Germany.

People fleeing their home country can be granted asylum or refugee protection in Germany. The BAMF decides whether a person is recognised as a refugee or not.

#### What does the BAMF do?

The BAMF has many tasks:

- It examines asylum applications and decides whether someone is granted asylum or refugee protection.
- It helps migrants to find their feet in Germany. For example, through language and integration courses.
- It supports people who wish to return to their home country voluntarily, for example when the war in their country is over.
- The BAMF also conducts research on migration, asylum and integration.

#### **Arrival centres**

All important steps in the asylum process are carried out in arrival centres. For example, this is where

- · A medical examination.
- · Personal data is recorded and identity checked.
- · The asylum application can be submitted.
- There is a hearing at which the BAMF conducts the interview and decides on the application.
- The employment agency also helps with questions about working in Germany.

# Branch offices and regional offices

Sometimes there are difficult cases that are processed in the regional offices. These offices carry out the asylum procedure, i.e. the application, interview and decision. Some branch offices are also called regional offices and take care of local integration work.

### Voluntary return

Not all refugees are allowed to stay in Germany. If someone wants to return to their home country, they can obtain information from a return counselling centre. These centres receive





their information from the BAMF in order to help.

# Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) - multilingual

# Hearing centre, Trier branch office

- Dasbachstraße 15 b, 54292 Trier, Rhineland-Palatinate
- 0651/14630
- service@bamf.bund.de
- Click here for the multilingual website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

# Social counselling and assistance in emergency situations

# **Department of Social Assistance**

# Information sheet and important notes on social assistance in accordance with the Twelfth Book of the German Social Code (SGB XII)

#### Who can receive social assistance?

People who are in an emergency situation and cannot help themselves. You can also receive social assistance if you do not receive help from your family or other organisations.

#### What is social assistance?

Social assistance is part of the state system that helps citizens in need. Social assistance includes many support services:

- Help with living expenses
- Basic security in old age and reduced earning capacity
- Care assistance
- Assistance with health
- Help to overcome particular social difficulties
- Assistance in other life situations

Other benefits from other social service providers include

- Unemployment insurance
- health insurance
- accident insurance
- Pension insurance





- housing benefit
- Child benefit

#### Who can help with questions?

Employees of the

- municipal administrations
- Town councils
- Association municipal administrations
- District administration

provide information and advice on rights and obligations.

#### What does the administration do?

The administration will check how it can best help you. They also check whether you have any income or assets of your own. Or whether other organisations or relatives can help.

#### Who does not receive social assistance?

You will not receive social assistance if you can help yourself. Or if you receive help from others, such as family or other social benefit providers.

#### How is social assistance granted?

Assistance is based on individual needs. Social assistance begins as soon as the administration knows that the requirements are met. An application must be submitted for basic old-age and reduced earning capacity benefits.

#### What forms of social assistance are there?

Social assistance can be provided as a service, cash benefit or benefit in kind.

#### What is a shared household?

If you live with other people, it is assumed that you live together and receive support from them.

#### Who is entitled to social assistance?

People who cannot support themselves with their own income and assets are entitled to assistance with living expenses. In the case of married couples or cohabiting partners, income and assets are considered jointly.

What is included in essential living expenses?

Living expenses include expenditure on food, clothing, housing, energy, household appliances, healthcare, transport, leisure, education and other services. Only reasonable costs for rent are taken into account.

#### When is assistance limited?





Assistance can be restricted if you have deliberately reduced your income or assets in order to receive more assistance, or if you act uneconomically despite being instructed to do so.

#### What assets must be used?

You have to use all your realisable assets, but in some cases this does not apply, for example to a reasonable house or small amounts of cash.

#### What happens in the case of claims against third parties?

Claims against other people can be transferred to the social welfare organisation. This is the case, for example, with maintenance claims against separated spouses or parents.

#### What are the obligations to co-operate?

You are obliged to report all important facts and changes. You must also be able to prove these. If requested by the office, you must appear in person. If you do not co-operate, you may not receive any help. Or the help you are already receiving may be cancelled.

#### What happens if I give false information?

If you provide false information, this is considered fraud. This fraud is a criminal offence. It can be prosecuted under criminal law. If you have received benefits because of the false information, you may have to pay them back.

#### What is the reimbursement of costs in the event of culpable behaviour?

Anyone who has deliberately or grossly negligently caused the conditions for social assistance must reimburse the costs. A person's heirs may also be obliged to do so.

#### What is the protection of social data?

Information about personal and financial circumstances is treated confidentially. It may only be passed on with your consent or legal authorisation.

#### What documents and records are required?

You can find the necessary documents on the website of the District Administration of Labour and Social Affairs | District of Germersheim. There you can also see which documents you still need to submit.

#### We are here for you

Social Services Department (Department 23) of the Germersheim District Administration

Waldstraße 13a, 76726 Germersheim

Bismarckstraße 4, 76726 Germersheim (housing benefit office)

Opening hours of the administration

Monday to Friday, 8.30 am to 12 noon

Tuesdays, 1.30 pm to 4 pm





Thursdays, long office day, 1.30 pm to 6 pm

Wednesday is closed.

**Please note:** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the assistance for subsistence and basic income support is closed to the public

**Important:** Use the online appointment system!

How?

- Online appointment booking: Assistance with living expenses and basic income support
- Online appointments: Care assistance
- Online appointments: Housing benefit

### General social counselling (ASB)

# Are you in an emergency situation or in a difficult life situation? And do you need advice and support?

Then come to the General Social Counselling Service (ASB). There you will receive information and counselling on general social issues. But also in acute emergency situations. The general social counselling service is open to everyone. Anyone who has problems can go there.

They can come for a one-off consultation. Or if you need help for longer.

#### Do you have legal or financial problems?

Legal and financial options can also be discussed during the counselling sessions.

#### What is the aim of the social counselling sessions?

The aim of the counselling sessions is to clarify the situation of those affected. Sometimes it is also about solving difficulties with other people. Or in the case of difficulties with institutions. The counselling centre can also help with contact with authorities or other services.

#### What does the counselling cost?

General social counselling is free of charge. All counselling sessions are confidential. No information is passed on.

# General life and social counselling at the Caritas Centre

#### **Caritas Centre Germersheim**







# Contact person:

Mr Klaus Fichtinger

- 17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/9491113
- caritas-zentrum.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de
- Caritas Centre Germersheim

# Neighbourhood shops in Germersheim, Kleine Au and Sondernheim

# Do you live in the Kleine Au residential area, Sondernheim or the south of Germersheim?

The neighbourhood shops there are the first port of call for questions and problems. They are also places where residents can meet. All residents are welcome there.

The neighbourhood shops provide advice and help with a wide range of problems. They support the common interests of the residents.

#### Will the staff come to my home if I need help?

The staff at the neighbourhood shops also visit families at home if they need support.

#### What issues can the neighbourhood shops advise and help with?

The staff at the neighbourhood shops can advise

- · on questions about parenting,
- · conflicts and crises
- They can also accompany you to meetings with kindergartens, schools, doctors or other institutions
- They can help you understand documents
- they can help you fill out forms if you have to go to the authorities or want to make an application
- · They help with placement in language courses
- · they support you in your search for an apprenticeship or job
- they have weekly programmes such as homework help, girls' meetings, young people's meetings and women's meetings
- they offer holiday programmes and festivals in the residential area (e.g. playground festival, summer festival or festival for Children's Rights Week)

# What programmes are currently on offer?

The neighbourhood shop in Kleine Au currently offers this service:

· Help with homework,





- · parties for the neighbourhood,
- · meeting place for women,
- · meeting place for girls and boys,
- · Programme during the holidays,
- · environment club
- · and much more

#### Who can I contact?

# Kleine Au neighbourhood shop

# **Contact person:**

Mr Klaus Strauß

- In der Kleinen Au 10, 76726 Germersheim
- 0151/40638638
- 07274/704998
- stadtteilladen@gmx.de
- You can find more information about the district shops here

# Sondernheimneighbourhood shop

# **Contact person:**

Mr Stefan Leahu

- Germersheimer Straße 14, 76726 Germersheim
- 0151/40638635
- stefan.leahu@djc.de

# Are you looking for other counselling services? Then take a look here:

- To the migration counselling service
- To the youth migration service
- Psychosocial counselling
- On-site counselling family offices

# Debt counselling/insolvency counselling

Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO) offers debt counselling/insolvency advice for people who are in need because they have debts. It offers counselling and assistance and helps with





- · economic,
- legal
- · and social problems
- It takes into account the mental and physical condition of the client.

People with debts that they cannot bear themselves often also have other problems. The counselling centre can also involve or refer them to other specialist services. However, they only do this if the client agrees.

The counsellors recognise the emergency situations of individual people as a whole. They help debtors to develop plans to reduce or eliminate their debts. To do this, it is important that the debtors cooperate actively and honestly.

What else does the counselling centre offer?

- It can issue a certificate confirming that two parties have been unable to reach an agreement without going to court. An application can then be made to open consumer insolvency proceedings
- It issues a certificate of additional needs. This leads to an increase in the garnishment-free amount for a garnishment protection account
- It offers prevention events, including at (secondary) schools, social institutions and job centre measures
- · It offers specialised training courses

All counselling sessions and the issuing of certificates are free of charge at the AWO debt counselling and insolvency advice centre. Everything that is discussed in the counselling session is not passed on. Information is not passed on.

# AWO - Debt counselling and insolvency advice centre

Karl-Sauer-Straße 8, 76829 Landau

06341/83613

Fax: 06341/87804

awo.suedpfalz.sb@t-online.de

Telephone availability:

Monday to Friday, 09:00 - 12:00h

#### Office hours:

Monday to Thursday, 09:00 - 12:00h and 14:00 - 16:00h

Friday, 09:00 - 14:00h

Due to high demand, there is a waiting list for appointments for counselling





# Help with right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic violence / Support with discrimination and antiziganism

# Counselling and support in cases of discrimination, racism and right-wing violence

Discrimination means that someone is treated worse than another person. This is prohibited in Germany. There is a law against it. The General Equal Treatment Act (AGG). All people are protected from discrimination by this law. The law protects all people, regardless of their residence status.

The AGG is intended to protect all people from being

- · on racial grounds,
- · because of their ethnic origin,
- · because of their gender,
- · because of a disability,
- because of their religion,
- · because of their faith or belief,
- · because of their age
- · or because of their sexual orientation

are discriminated against.

The General Equal Opportunities Act (AGG) has been in force in Germany since 2006.

# **Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency**

#### Have you experienced discrimination? And you want to defend yourself against it?

The federal government has an anti-discrimination centre. People can get advice and support there. They can contact the centre if they have experienced discrimination. The legal basis for this is the General Equal Opportunities Act (AGG).

The anti-discrimination centre can provide information on what rights people have under the AGG. It can also show you how you can legally defend yourself against discrimination.

The anti-discrimination office can put you in touch with other advice centres. It can also help two people in dispute to come to an agreement.

Counselling is confidential and free of charge.

# **Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency**

- 030/18555-1855
- beratung@ads.bund.de
- You can find more information here





# Telephone availability:

Monday, 13:00 - 15:00h

Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 - 12:00h

Click here for the contact form.

#### Anti-discrimination centre of the state (LADS)

People are very different. You can see that everywhere. They differ in their culture, language, religion or how they see the world. They have different genders, are different ages or have a different sexual identity. Everyone also has different abilities and disabilities.

**Human rights apply to everyone and are not subject to any conditions.** It is important that these rights can and may be utilised. You have to know your rights in order to utilise them.

You should demand these rights for yourself. But they should also be respected by others. This is the only way to successfully combat discrimination. This is what the State Anti-Discrimination Agency (LADS) is committed to.

Under the motto "Diverse. Different. Equal!", the LADS provides information. It educates, advises and supports all people.

You will also find a lot of information about:

- Legal issues
- counselling
- networks
- Service offers
- · Contact persons and
- · Worth reading.

Ministry for Families, Women, Culture and Integration (MFFKI) Rhineland-Palatinate

#### **Contact persons**

Mechthild Gerigk-Koch

**\**06131/165605

@mechthild.gerigk-koch@mffki.rlp.de

Counselling hotline

**€**06131/165611

©Counselling hours

Monday to Friday, 9:30 - 12:00h





Vanessa Cobos Pérez

# **06131/165606**

@vanessa.cobosperez@mffki.rlp.de

### ©Counselling hours

Monday to Thursday, 9:00 - 12:00h

Click here to go to the homepage

# **Counselling compass RLP**

In Rhineland-Palatinate, there is a great deal of support for those affected by discrimination and violence. The state supports them. But the local authorities and civil society also help.

### Would you like to get an overview? Or find the right counselling service?

The RLP counselling compass can help here. It helps those affected, relatives and witnesses of misanthropic incidents. In the counselling compass you will find places that offer counselling and help. There are also lists of contact persons.

The counselling compass helps you to find offers and contacts in these areas:

- · Cross-ethnic contact points
- · Devaluation of people seeking asylum
- Devaluation of long-term unemployed people
- Devaluation of people because of their gender identity
- Devaluation of people because of their sexual identity
- Devaluation of people with disabilities
- Devaluation of homeless people
- · anti-Semitism
- racism
- sexism
- Antiziganism
- · Hostility towards Muslims/anti-Muslim racism

#### Would you like to share your experiences with others?

Those affected can talk to other people at self-help organisations. People who have or have had similar experiences meet there. Some contact centres offer advice on discrimination against specific groups. Others also offer more general advice.

#### Would you like to take a closer look at the topic of group-related misanthropy?

In the counselling compass you will find a list of further education and training courses on the topic.





The counselling compass is a measure of the state action plan against racism and group-focused enmity.

You can find the counselling compass at here.

# m\*power - Reporting centre for right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic violence in Rhineland-Palatinate

# Have you been the victim of right-wing, racist or anti-Semitic violence? And you don't know what to do now?

You should definitely report the incident. You can do this at the m\*power mobile counselling centre. Counselling is confidential and free of charge.

The reporting centre documents and collects cases of anti-human violence. This helps to create a situation report for Rhineland-Palatinate. This should show how much misanthropy there is in RLP. Those affected share their experiences. In this way, they make the cases visible to others.

**6.** 0151/10594799 / 0261/55001140 / 0261/55001141

@kontakt@mpower-rlp.de

You can find more information here: m\*power

# MIA - Antigypsyism reporting and information centre

# What is antigypsyism?

Antiziganism is a special form of racism. It is directed against the Sinti and Roma. Some people call them 'gypsies'. This term is already a form of discrimination. It should not be used.

#### How can MIA help?

The MIA represents the interests of people affected by antigypsyism in Germany. It campaigns against discrimination and in favour of equal opportunities. It does this in the media, in politics and in contact with the authorities.

Its focus is on networking with civil society institutions and anti-discrimination centres. Sinti and Roma are also to be encouraged. The aim is for them to find their place in society. They should be able to participate. And they should stand up for their interests.

Through its work, the MIA aims to raise awareness of antiziganism. It wants to improve support for those affected. Antigypsyist incidents are documented in a standardised manner and according to a specific system. The incidents are then analysed. This is the only way to clarify the needs of those affected.

The aim of MIA is to highlight existing deficits in the regulatory system. In this way, antiziganist incidents in Germany can be made visible.

#### How can I report an incident of antigypsyism?





#### **4**+49 (0) 1796632954

Report an incident - Antiziganism Reporting and Information Centre (antiziganismus-melden.de)

You can find more information about MIA at here

# Association of counselling centres for victims of right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic violence e.V.

### What can you do after a racist attack?

The Association of Counselling Centres has collected recommendations. They are available in 10 languages: <u>German</u>, <u>English</u>, <u>French</u>, <u>Arabic</u>, <u>Kurmancî</u>, <u>Farsi</u>, <u>Pashto</u>, <u>Tingrinja</u>, <u>Albanian</u>, <u>Romanes</u>

Click here to go to the association's homepage

# SoliNet - Counselling against hate and violence online

#### Have you been the victim of hate and violence on the internet?

Then you can get help from SoliNet. This is a central advice centre for those affected by online hate and violence in Rhineland-Palatinate.

SoliNet offers a wide range of personalised support:

- Emotional support
- · Help with securing evidence
- · Help with deleting content
- · Legal support
- Tips on online safety and communication
- · Counselling processes are documented

Counselling is confidential. If you wish, you do not have to give your name. Counselling is free of charge. Counselling is available in German and English.

# Solinet counselling centre

**4**0621/5202130

solinet@medienanstalt-rlp.de

You can find more information here

# **Counselling centres for victims**

What can you do after a right-wing attack?





There are many tips that can help. The Verband der Beratungsstellen für Betroffene rechter, rassistischer und antisemitischer Gewalt e.V. (VBRG) has put them together.

There is also a video. You can watch it here:

Toolbox against the right

#### Network for a Rhineland-Palatinate free of discrimination e.V.

A number of associations, initiatives and self-organisations have come together to form the Network for a Rhineland-Palatinate Free of Discrimination. They want to work together for equality and against discrimination.

The network aims to support those affected and contribute to shaping diversity.

The list of full members and further information on the network can be found at here

# **Initiative Committee for Migration Policy Rhineland-Palatinate**

The Initiative Committee is committed to social and legal equality for people with a migration background.

The focal points include

- · political and public relations work
- · training programmes
- concrete counselling work (95% legal)

The training programmes cover the following topics

- · Intercultural competence
- · Care for the elderly
- Social benefits
- Islam
- The focus is on legal topics, such as AGG

#### Contact us

Initiative Committee for Migration Policy

Albert-Schweitzer-Straße 113-115, 55128 Mainz

Thorsten Jäger - Managing Director

<u>+49 (0) 61312874453</u>

@tj@zgv.info

Ann-Christin Bölter - Rechtspolitische Referentin

**4**+49 (0) 61312874420





# @a-c.boelter@zgv.info

# Help with violence - for women

#### Women's shelters



#### Were you subjected to violence? Or have you been threatened?

When women are affected or threatened by violence, they need help. The violence often takes place within the family. Or between (married) partners. But there are ways out of violence and opportunities for a future without violence. Women's shelters are facilities for women and their children who are acutely affected by violence or threatened by violence.

Women's refuges offer refuge and support. But also information and counselling. Women's refuges offer anonymity, safety and protection. They are based on the principle of helping people to help themselves.

#### Who can turn to a women's refuge?

All women can get help there. No matter how old they are or how much money they earn. It also makes no difference what residence status they have, where they come from or what their sexual orientation is.

# When are women's refuges open?

The women's shelters are open 24 hours a day, including weekends and public holidays.

# How many women's shelters are there in Rhineland-Palatinate?

There are currently 17 women's shelters in Rhineland-Palatinate for women aged 18 and over and their children affected by violence.

You can find information on the <u>women's refuge in your area</u> below or via your <u>family office</u> and the police.

The addresses of the women's shelters are secret. This is to protect the women who live there. Contact can only be made by telephone.

You can find more general information about women's refuges at here





# Women's refuge Landau - Frauenzufluchtsstätte Südpfalz e.V.

# Women's refuge Landau/Südpfalz

- P.O. Box 2403 76814 Landau
- 06341/89626
- 0170/8341889 (at night, on weekends or public holidays)
- Women's refuge Landau

#### Women's centre Aradia e.V.

The women's centre Aradia e.V. in Landau offers a shelter for women. The women's centre has an emergency call and advice centre for women and girls affected by sexualised violence. The centre also offers a comprehensive range of training and further education courses for professionals and interested parties.

- Moltkestraße 7, 76829 Landau
- 06341/83437
- aradia-landau@t-online.de
- Women's centre Aradia e.V.

# **Women's centre Neustadt**

Women's refuge 06321/2603

Counselling centre 06321/2329

- @beratungsstelle@frauenzentrum-neustadt.de
- Women's refuge Neustadt

# Women's refuge Speyer e.V.

The women's shelter in Speyer offers protection, accommodation, counselling and support

- P.O. Box 1524 67325 Speyer
- 06232/28835
- frauenhaus-speyer@gmx.de
- Speyer Women's Refuge





# Frauen gegen Gewalt e.V. - Specialist counselling centres for women affected by violence and stalking

Counselling centre: Monday to Thursday, 08:30 to 15:30, Friday, 08:30 to 14:30.

# **Proactive counselling**

- Kleine Pfaffengasse 28, 67346 Speyer
- 06232/28835
- frauenhaus-speyer@gmx.de
- Proactive counselling Speyer

# Nationwide help hotline

The "Violence against women" helpline advises women affected throughout Germany. They can get information there. Or be referred to suitable local organisations that can support them.

The helpline is free of charge. You can always reach it: 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

# **\**116016

The counselling service is anonymous. You can trust the counsellors.

Counselling can be provided in 18 foreign languages. Counselling is possible in many languages with the help of interpreters.

The counselling service is barrier-free. This means that it also helps people with disabilities. Hearing-impaired or hard of hearing people can make use of a free interpreting service via the website. The conversation with the help hotline staff is translated into German sign language or written language.

Relatives and friends can also contact the helpline. It is also available to specialists for questions and information.

- info@hilfetelefon.de
- gebaerdendtelefon@sip.bundesregierung.de

Help with violence - for women and men

Intervention Centre against Domestic Violence South Palatinate







The Intervention Centre is a special department of the Landau public prosecutor's office. The social services of the justice system are always involved in cases of domestic violence. This service is called court assistance. The Court Assistance Centre is the first to intervene. And it works as a clearing centre. The Intervention Centre can also advise helpers on how to deal with the issue of domestic violence.

The Intervention Centre helps with

- · Counselling for victims
- Working with perpetrators of domestic violence
- Working with perpetrators of stalking after a separation
- · Working with systems in which violence prevails Violence-ridden systems
- Victim-offender mediation
- · Public prosecutor's office and court assistance

# Intervention Centre against Domestic Violence Südpfalz

- Nordring 15c, 76829 Landau
- 06341/381922 (Opferberatungsstelle)
- 06341/381913 (perpetrator counselling)
- info@haeusliche-gewalt.de
- Click here for the homepage

# Nationwide support services for women and men affected by violence

You can find help for women and men affected by violence on the website of the BMFSFJ's **#Stärker als Gewalt** initiative. There you will find practical measures. And help and support. The website also shows who you can contact by phone or online in an emergency.

Stronger than violence

# Help hotline for violence against men

Men also experience violence. In childhood, on the street, in institutions or in relationships.

That's why the Violence against men helpline exists.

### Are you a man and have experienced violence?

Then give us a call!

- 0800/1239900
- beratung@maennerhilfetelefon.de
- Men's helpline





# **Home phone**

Travelling alone at night can be dangerous and scary.

#### Are you travelling alone and don't feel comfortable?

Then you can call the home telephone. You can talk to volunteers on your way home. They will "accompany" you on your way home. The telephone call should make you feel safer. The phone call only ends when you have arrived home safely.

There are many regional initiatives throughout Germany. You can call the Berlin home telephone from anywhere.

The home telephone is intended to:

- · give you security
- · Deter potential attackers
- Helpers on the phone can react more quickly in an emergency
- Anyone who is travelling alone at night and is afraid or feels threatened can always call

Throughout Germany, always call the Berlin number 030/12074182

# Phone times:

Friday and Saturday 22:00 - 3:00h

Sunday to Thursday 20:00 - 24:00h

Home phone

# So that thoughts don't turn into deeds

# Prevention projects for people who are afraid of committing a violent or sexual offence

BIOS victim protection helps and advises on

- Consumption and distribution of child pornography material
- Violent fantasies and sexual fantasies
- · Tendencies towards sexualised behaviour
- sexual fantasies with children
- Domestic violence

### We help you not to commit a criminal offence!

The service is anonymous and free of charge.

<u>0721/47043935</u>





# Telephone hours:

Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 12:30h

- praevention@bios-bw.de
- www.bevor-was-passiert.de

# **Equal Opportunities Officer Germersheim District**



The Equal Opportunities Officer is committed to the equal treatment of men and women. She develops projects and concepts for equality. She is also committed to equality for migrants in the district of Germersheim. She is also concerned with equal opportunities in the workplace.

#### Germersheim district administration

Contact: Mrs Lisa-Marie Trog

- Luitpoldplatz 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/531109
- I.trog@kreis-germersheim.de
- Further information can be found in the app
- Further information can be found on the district website

Help with violence - for children and young people

# Facts and figures

#### How many children and young people are affected by sexualised violence?

The Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) continues to record an increase in the number of cases of sexual offences against children and young people. The number of cases has risen significantly in recent years, particularly in the areas of sexual abuse of minors and child and youth pornography.

In Germany, 16,375 cases of child sexual abuse were reported in 2023. However, many cases of abuse are not reported. Therefore, the figures are actually much higher.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) assumes that up to one million children and young people in Germany have already experienced sexual violence by adults. That's around one or two children in every school class.





©Central portal of the Federal Government on the topic of sexual violence against children and young people

Independent Commissioner for Child Sexual Abuse Issues (UBSKM)

Road Movie - Talking helps

### Help with sexual violence in the district of Germersheim

Have you been a victim of sexual violence? Have you been touched even though you didn't want to be? Are you a parent who suspects that your child has been the victim of sexual violence?

The Youth Welfare Office and its co-operation and network partners are the right contacts for children, young people and parents on this topic.

The contact persons all offer anonymous counselling.

#### District Youth Welfare Office / General Social Service, Child Protection Network

**♀**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim

Counselling hotline:

**4**+49 (0) 727453432

Mon to Wed: 08.30 - 12.00 and 13.30 - 16.00

Thu: 08.30 - 12.00 and 13.30 - 18.00

Fri: 08.30 - 12.00

In emergencies outside of business hours, please contact the police in Germersheim (  $\frac{+49}{0}$  (0) 72749580 or Wörth (  $\frac{+49}{0}$  (0) 727192210).

The website www.trau-dich.de is designed for children in grades 1-6. It gives children tips on correct behaviour in assaultive situations.

The content is also available in sign language and easy language.

There is also content for parents and professionals.

# **Child protection service Caritas Centre Germersheim**

# Where can children find help if they are affected by violence?

The child protection service at the Caritas Centre Germersheim is there for children and young people who are at risk of violence or have experienced violence. It offers educational and psychological help. It can also help with legal or medical issues.

**Q**17er-Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim





**C**07274/9491134 or **C** 07274/9491136

@kinderschutzdienst.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de

@Jana.Mohr@caritas-speyer.de

For professionals:

@Insofa.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de

#### **Germersheim Child Protection Association**

The Germersheim Child Protection Association offers counselling for children or young people and their parents. Counselling can take place in person, on the phone or by email.

**♀** Waldstraße 5, 76726 Germersheim

Child and youth helpline (free of charge)

**1**116111

Parents' helpline (free of charge)

+49 (0) 8001110550

© New counselling hours:

Mon to Fri from 9:00 - 17:00 and

Tue and Thu until 19:00

New chat counselling hours:

Tue + Fri 10:00 - 12:00 and

Wed + Thu 15:00 -17:00

em@il counselling still available around the clock

@info@kinderschutzbund-germersheim.de

Germersheim Child Protection Association

Online counselling for children and young people: 🚱 NummergegenKummer

# Sexual abuse help portal

The Sexual Abuse Help Portal is for affected children and young people, their relatives and professionals. It offers quick access to help and counselling.

### Are you worried about a child or a young person?

Then you can also turn to the help portal. Here you can ask questions and find support.



# Help telephone Sexual abuse

#### Would you prefer to talk about sexual violence on the phone?

Then contact the help telephone. It is the contact point for those affected by sexual violence in childhood and adolescence, for relatives and people from the social environment of children, for professionals and for all interested parties. The counsellors on the phone provide support with all questions on the topic. Counselling is anonymous and free of charge. Counselling can also take place online.

The languages offered are: English, Arabic, Turkish, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Italian, Dari, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Bulgarian, French, Hungarian, Persian (Farsi), Polish, Albanian, Kurdish.

Call us - even in case of doubt!

**\**0800/2255530

Telephone times:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 09:00 - 14:00h

Tuesday and Thursday, 15:00 - 20:00h

Help phone portal

#### Help telephone berta for organised sexualised and ritual violence

# Are you personally affected? Or do you want to help someone who has been affected?

Don't stay alone with your feelings and questions. Call - even if you are under pressure, feel ashamed, guilty, afraid or unsure.

For victims of organised sexualised and ritual violence. Support for victims, helpers and professionals.

- · We believe and listen
- We advise on leaving and related questions
- · We stay there, even when things get difficult
- · We provide confidential, anonymous and free counselling

**\**0800/3050750

Telephone hours:

Tuesday, 16:00 - 19:00h

Wednesday and Friday, 09:00 - 12:00h



Berta-Telephone - N.I.N.A. e.V.

#### **Police**

The duties of the police are firmly regulated throughout Germany. The police act as a friend and helper. They are there to ensure the safety of the population.

The police have various tasks. Their tasks include

- Keeping an eye on crime and problems in road traffic
- investigating and combating criminal offences (§ 163 StPO)
- regulating road traffic. recording and investigating traffic accidents (Section 44 (2) StVO);
- · investigate and combat cybercrime;
- train the next generation of police officers
- · Fighting fires and environmental disasters
- assist with emergency medical services when the fire brigade is part of the police force;
- operate and support the volunteer fire brigade if the fire brigade is part of the police force;
- guard objects
- · accompany demonstrations
- securing waterways (water police).

There are two police stations in the Germersheim district:

# Germersheim police station

- Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 5, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/958-0
- pigermersheim@polizei.rlp.de
- Germersheim police station

# Wörth am Rhein police station

- Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Straße 2, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- 07271/9221-0





# piwoerth@polizei.rlp.de

### Wörth police station

# Are you in danger and need help from the police? Or someone else needs your help?

#### 110: The number for the police

Then dial the emergency number  $\boxed{110}$ . The number is free of charge and can be reached from anywhere.

You should always call this number if you feel threatened or in danger. Or if you are the victim of a criminal offence and need the help of the police.

You should also call if you notice that others are in danger. Even if you only suspect this, it is right to call 110.

#### 112: The number for fire and rescue services

In the event of an accident, fire or if someone is in an acute and potentially life-threatening emergency situation, dial  $\$  112

#### Health

# General information on the topic of health in several languages

When you are ill, you sometimes need help. Then it is important that you are well understood. And that you understand what it's all about. Otherwise it can be difficult to find your way around the German healthcare system. For everyone to be able to talk to each other, they have to understand each other. This is important for patients and doctors, carers and hospital staff. It is also important for health and social care staff.

It can help if patients can find information in their own language. This enables them to inform themselves better. And they gain access to the topic of health.

#### A picture is worth a thousand words - picture boards and pictograms

Sometimes it can help in a conversation if you can show pictures. These pictures can help with explanations. There are picture boards especially for the area of health.

Pictograms as a communication aid Pictograms can also help in a conversation

Verein für bildgestützte Sprachförderung und Kommunikation e.V. (Association for picture-based language support and communication) Communication aids on the subject of health. With pictograms and translation aids

#### Are you looking for information on the topic of health in different languages?

You can find it here:





- <u>Federal Ministry of Health.</u> There is a lot of information in different languages here. On the topics of health, precaution/prevention, immunisation, sexuality, hygiene, care and addiction and much more
- State Centre for Health in North Rhine-Westphalia: A large selection of health information in various languages
- Federal Centre for Health Education. Health information in several languages
- Breastcare App: App for the early detection of breast cancer in various languages

#### Do you need an interpreter?

Sometimes it can also help if a person can translate. You can find more information about interpreting <u>here</u> in our app.

#### **Electronic patient file (ePA)**

From 15 January 2025, a new digital patient file called the electronic patient file (ePA) will be introduced in Germany. This file will store all important health data, such as what the doctor has found out about your health, what medication you are taking or what examinations you have had.

Everyone with statutory health insurance automatically receives this ePA. If you do not want this, you can object.

Doctors and patients can access health data quickly and easily via the ePA. But only people who are authorised to do so are allowed to see the data. This keeps the data secure.

How can insured persons refuse to set up an ePA? What deadlines apply?

If someone no longer wants to use the ePA at a later date, they can have it deleted. The aim is to enable doctors and patients to work together faster and better to improve health.

If someone wants to refuse the ePA, they must inform their health insurance company. If they do not do this, the EPR will be created automatically.

Important details about the EPC. What do you need to bear in mind? Contents of the EPA:

All important information from your visits to the doctor is automatically included in the EPR if it is available in digital form. This means, for example, that findings or diagnoses that the doctor writes down are transferred to the EPR.

You can also upload information such as vital signs (e.g. your height or weight) or older medical documents to the ePA yourself.

From 2025, there will be an automatic overview of all the medication you are taking. This will later be supplemented by a special medication plan.

Access rights:

You can specify which doctors or hospitals are authorised to access your ePA. If you want to make changes, you can do this via the ePA app or contact the ombudsman's office of your health insurance company.

If your health card is read at a doctor's surgery or hospital, they will have temporary access to your ePA for 90 days unless you object.

Use and accessibility:





You can manage the ePA via a special app on your smartphone. Each statutory health insurance fund offers its own ePA app, which you can download free of charge from the App Store (for iOS) or the Google Play Store (for Android).

If you do not have a smartphone, you can get support from pharmacies or special centres to access your ePA.

Legal regulations:

The introduction of the ePA will initially begin in Hamburg and North Rhine-Westphalia. It will then be available throughout Germany from February 2025.

Privately insured persons can also use an ePA, although this depends on the insurance company in question.

Advantages:

The ePA facilitates communication between doctors, hospitals and other medical facilities. It gives you a better overview of your health data.

The ePA also increases the safety and accuracy of medication.

Challenges:

Not all documents, such as old paper medical reports, are automatically digitised. However, you can ask your health insurance provider whether they can take over digitisation.

There may be technical difficulties at the beginning because some doctors have to adapt their practice software.

Another problem is that there is no multilingual information, i.e. no translations into other languages.

The ePA is an important step towards digitalisation in the healthcare sector. It should improve medical care. It also provides a basis for research.

Would you like to find out more? You can find more information here:

Would you like to find out more? You can find more information here:

- PAQ of the Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians
- Questions and answers on the electronic patient file (ePA) by the KBV
- Information from the consumer advice centre about the ePA

### **Vaccinations**

# **Vaccination protection**

#### Protection against infectious diseases

People come into contact with many pathogens (viruses, bacteria or fungi) every day. This does not always lead to them becoming ill. The body often manages to heal itself.

However, to protect yourself from some infectious diseases, you can also be vaccinated. Vaccination is not compulsory in Germany. Everyone can decide for themselves whether they want to have themselves or their children immunised. In many cases, however, immunisation is recommended. It can protect against serious illnesses.

The Federal Centre for Health Education provides everything you need to know about  $\underline{\text{vaccinations}}$  on its website  $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}$ 





To prevent infection in everyday life, it is important to pay attention to hygiene. Simple hygiene tips can help to avoid infecting yourself and others.

On the website www.infektionsschutz.de you will find pathogen fact sheets on various infectious diseases in six different languages - German, English, French, Turkish, Russian and Arabic.

#### **Current vaccination recommendations**

You can read up to date vaccination recommendations  $\underline{\text{in 10 languages}}$  in the  $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$  vaccination calendar.

#### **Protection from infections**

The Infection Protection Act has been in force in the Federal Republic of Germany since January 2001. It is intended to help detect infectious diseases at an early stage and take appropriate measures to do so.

To enable the health authority to take action even in the case of infections that are still unclear, there is an additional rule: as soon as two people presumably have the same disease and it must be assumed that others could be infected, this must be reported to the health authority.

This procedure is intended to ensure that appropriate detection methods and protective measures can be implemented as early as possible.

The following is a brief assessment of the individual diseases and their treatment.

The spread of infectious diseases is especially possible in communal facilities where many people live in close quarters.

Here is a **list of examples** with brief assessments of diseases and how to treat them:

#### Lice

The head louse is an animal (insect) that cannot fly and lives on people. It is transmitted by direct contact from infected person to the next head. The lice feed on blood. They suck this from the scalp of the infested person. This causes the head to itch intensely. However, there is no further damage or danger to people from the louse.

#### **Treatment options:**

Use of killing washing lotions. It is important to follow the instructions of the pharmacy/doctors exactly so that new lice cannot hatch again.

#### **Scabies**

Scabies is an infectious skin disease that is widespread. It is caused by the scabies mite. The scabies mite belongs to the arachnid family. In humans, it can bore small ducts in the skin,





which is very itchy. The scabies mite is transmitted through direct contact between two bodies. Therefore, it is often found on the hands or behind the ears.

It is important to recognise scabies early and go to a specialist. Scabies is treated with creams. Here, too, it is important to treat exactly as prescribed by the doctor or pharmacist.

#### **Tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis is a disease caused by bacteria. It usually affects the lungs. It causes severe coughing, sometimes with bloody admixtures. In some countries, tuberculosis cannot be treated completely. As a result, the tuberculosis can lead to encapsulation in the lungs. If the person becomes seriously ill later in life or even in old age, tuberculosis can break out again.

Anyone who coughs for a longer period of time and who also has other symptoms (weight loss, sweating at night) should go to the appropriate specialists immediately. Tuberculosis can be treated with modern antibiotics.

# **Hepatitis** (jaundice)

There are different forms of jaundice, which can be triggered by different types of viruses. You can be vaccinated against hepatitis A and hepatitis B and are then protected.

Hepatitis B can be transmitted through very close physical contact. Those who do not feel well and whose eyes turn yellow should be examined further.

Taking into account the increased number of refugees, it should be noted that at the present time there is no accumulation of notifiable infectious diseases in the district of Germersheim compared to previous years. In addition, the reception centres for asylum seekers (AfA) are conducting an initial medical examination and starting vaccination measures.

# Vaccination protection for helpers in asylum facilities

As a general rule, helpers in asylum facilities should have received the standard vaccinations according to the STIKO recommendations. The RKI (Robert Koch Institute) recommends that the occupational health check-ups (ArbmedVV) should also be observed. The STIKO (Standing Commission on Vaccination) also recommends that all people, regardless of whether they work in asylum facilities, should be vaccinated against:

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Polio
- whooping cough (pertussis)
- Measles, mumps, rubella (for those born after 1970)
- Influenza (for women and men aged 60 and over; in season)
- COVID-19 (Corona)

The STIKO also advises the following vaccinations if you could come into contact with infected persons at work. This is the case, for example, with employees and helpers in institutions:





- Hepatitis A
- · Hepatitis B
- Booster vaccination against polio, if the last vaccination was more than 10 years ago.
- Influenza (in season)

#### Vaccination for volunteers

In principle, the vaccination recommendation according to the STIKO guidelines applies to all citizens living in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany. The necessary booster vaccinations should be carried out at regular intervals (e.g. booster tetanus/diphtheria vaccination every 10 years).

- Which insurance company pays for which vaccination?
- Further information from the Federal Centre for Health Education on vaccinations for children
- Multilingual information on the topic of health can be found <u>here</u>.

### Help for the mentally ill and addicts

Some people struggle with their addiction. Or they are in a serious crisis and have mental health problems. And they can't cope on their own. Then they need outside help. People who are mentally ill also often need support. But it's not just those affected who need help. Families often need support too.

# Do you suffer from a mental illness? Are you unable to participate in society as a result?

Then you are entitled to integration assistance. Participation means that you can take part in areas of life.

Important areas of life are, for example, school or social contacts.

#### Who can help me?

There are various organisations in the Germersheim district that can provide advice and help with addiction or mental illness.

# Social psychiatric service

If you live in the district of Germersheim, you can get help and support from the Social Psychiatric Service. The social psychiatric service is part of the health department of the Germersheim district administration. They receive counselling and support there.

The service helps people

in life crises





- · who are mentally ill
- who suffer from addiction (alcohol, medication, gambling addiction, eating disorders)
- · Older people with a mental illness
- Relatives of these people

# Sozialpsychiatrischer Dienst - Gesundheitsamt

Phauptstraße 25, 76726 Germersheim

+49 (0) 727453131

https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/buergerservice/j...

Further information on the social psychiatric service can be found at here

# Sozialtherapeutische Kette gGmbH

Sozialtherapeutische Kette gGmbH is a non-profit organisation. It offers various services. And it has various facilities, mainly for people who are chronically mentally ill or addicted.

Sozialtherapeutische Kette gGmbH offers outpatient care. It also has 54 residential care places. It also has day centres. It also has an outpatient senior citizens' service. And a nursing service.

# Sozialtherapeutische Kette gGmbH

Albert-Einstein-Straße 7, 76829 Landau

+49 (0) 634191830

http://www.stk-suedpfalz.de/home.html

You can find more information at ? here.

# Addiction counselling

There are different forms of addiction. Some people are addicted to medication or drugs. Others are addicted to gambling. Or they have problems with food. People can also be addicted to certain media. They often need help to get away from the addiction. In most cases, the addict's family also suffers. They also need help and support. This is why there are counselling centres for addiction. They provide advice and help. And they offer therapies for addicts.

Who can help me in the Germersheim district?

# **Addiction counselling Caritas Centre**

In the district of Germershein, you can turn to the Caritas Centre.

The counselling centre offers advice, help and therapy.





It helps people in these areas

- for problems with alcohol
- if they are dependent on medication
- if they want to stop smoking
- · if they are addicted to gambling
- · if they have an eating disorder

The counselling centre also provides information about longer rehab cures in a specialist clinic. It can put you in touch with specialised clinics. And it takes care of the preparation. It clarifies the costs. It takes care of the registration. And it makes the necessary applications. It is important that addicts are also looked after after their stay in the clinic. The addiction counselling centre can also take care of this.

# **Caritas Zentrum - Suchtberatung**

- **♀**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- @caritas-zentrum.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de
- **4**+49 (0) 727494910
- https://www.caritas-speyer.de/angebote/suchtberat...

# Johannes Münd | Caritas Zentrum - Suchtberatung, Außenstelle Wörth

- QLudwigstraße 4, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- @caritas-zentrum.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de
- +49 (0) 72713421
- https://www.caritas-speyer.de/angebote/suchtberat...

# NIDRO youth and addiction counselling and treatment centre

The Ludwigsmühle therapy association also offers counselling. They are called NIDRO counselling centres. They are available at various locations in the surrounding area. There is also a NIDRO counselling centre in Germersheim.

People are counselled there in these areas:

- Counselling on questions and problems with addiction:
- 1. Discussions with information and counselling
- 2. Preparation and referral for detoxification and inpatient addiction rehabilitation
- 3. Support for psychosocial care during substitution
- 4. Counselling for other forms of addiction (gambling, media, eating)
- 5. Networking
- 6. Counselling for relatives





- Outpatient addiction rehab for questions and problems related to addiction
- 1. Treatment lasts 12-18 months
- 2. Counselling for individuals and in groups
- 3. you must attend regularly
- 4. it is possible that they are treated with the help of medication
- 5. your urine is analysed for drugs
- · Outpatient addiction aftercare for addiction issues and addiction problems
- 1. they are counselled alone or in groups
- 2. Treatment lasts up to 12 months
- 3. Central goal: stabilisation of a life without addiction and in self-determination
- · Youth counselling for adolescents and young adults
- 1. Counselling for conflicts (problems with parents, school, education, boyfriend or girlfriend)
- 2. Use of nicotine, alcohol, medication or drugs
- 3. Problems with media consumption
- 4. Problems with eating behaviour
- · Crisis intervention
- 1. Help with urgent questions
- 2. Help with conflicts

#### Special offers:

- · Prevention of drug use and addiction
- 1. Counselling to prevent addiction
- 2. Creation of a personal concept
- 3. Training to improve social skills
- 4. Addiction prevention programmes for all age groups
- · Help specifically for addicted women
- 1. Treatment and counselling specifically for girls and women
- 2. Prevention of addiction specifically for girls and women
- 3. Counselling for partners and caregivers
- 4. Referral to therapy
- 5. Group work
- 6. Work in projects
- 7. Outpatient addiction rehab (ARS) also with the help of medication
- 8. Measures for integration into work
- 9. Combined therapy (alternating between inpatient and outpatient)
- 10. Outpatient aftercare
- 11. Specialist lectures for multipliers and cooperation partners
- · Help with gambling addiction
- 1. Counselling for those affected and their caregivers
- 2. Counselling for debt
- 3. Referral to treatment





- 4. Outpatient aftercare
- 5. Psychosocial support
- 6. family counselling
- 7. Prevention of addiction in schools, authorities...
- 8. Guided groups for gamblers
- Offers for groups and self-help programmes: You can find the dates at here

# Nina Heckmann | NIDRO Germersheim

**♀**Trommelweg 11b, 76726 Germersheim

@nidro-ger@xn--ludwigsmhle-0hb.de

+49 (0) 7274919327

https://ludwigsmuehle.de/angebote/nidro-beratungs...

Do you need an appointment? Then give us a call

Monday to Friday, 09:30 - 11:30h

Don't have an appointment? Then drop by

Wednesday, 16:30 - 17:30h

# **Be Prepared**

The Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia runs the German Institute for Addiction and Prevention Research (DISuP). It has developed the Be Prepared app. It aims to help refugees live healthier lives in society. The app was developed especially for young refugees. It provides them with information on the topics of alcohol and cannabis and how to deal with them correctly.

The app is available in many different languages (German, English, Farsi, Pashto and Arabic).

Click here for the app

• BePrepared Poster

# Strong in a storm

#### Are you looking for help?

Stark im Sturm helps you to find the right support for parents and their children suffering from mental illness and addiction.

This page summarises a wide range of offers of help for you:

- · concrete local help,
- further local help
- · and nationwide help / online help offers.





You will also find helpful reading material for parents and children.

Help finder Stark im Sturm

# Aids, drug and youth services

#### How are the number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases developing?

In Germany, the number of infections with sexually transmitted diseases is on the rise. Especially in cases of hepatitis B, syphilis and gonorrhoea (also known as gonorrhoea). There have been many new cases in these areas in recent years. The number of HIV infections remains relatively stable.

There are various reasons for this development. Many people only think of HIV when they think of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). They often do not think about other possible diseases.

Another reason may be that the internet and apps make it much easier and quicker for people to find partners. When there is more rapid sexual contact, the number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases also increases. (Source: Statista.com)

## **AIDS-Hilfe Landau**

## Who can I turn to if I have questions about sexuality?

AIDS-, Drogen- und Jugendhilfe Landau e.V. provides information on many topics, for example on sexuality and intoxicants. The advice centre is also concerned with prevention, i.e. it wants to help before problems arise. To this end, it organises events aimed at school classes, youth groups, trainees and other important people. In this way, many people can be informed about risks. And they learn how they can protect themselves.

AIDS-Hilfe provides counselling on these topics:

- HIV/Aids and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- sexual orientation
- sexual health,
- drugs and
- youth.

## Who can get help at the counselling centre?

Anyone who needs help can come to the counselling centre. It provides free counselling for those affected, partners, relatives, friends, schools, youth associations, teachers, educators, youth leaders, social education workers and many more. It provides advice in the areas of AIDS / HIV, drug counselling and youth welfare.

#### How does the counselling work?

If you wish, you can get counselling in a personal meeting on site. Or on the phone or by e-mail. The AIDS-Hilfe Landau e.V. is subject to confidentiality. This means that it is not allowed to pass on any information. Counselling sessions can also be held anonymously. This means that you do not have to give your name if you do not want to.





#### AIDS-Hilfe Landau e.V.

- Queichheimer Hauptstraße 28, 76829 Landau
- @info@aids-drogen-jugendhilfe.de
- +49 (0) 634188688
- Thttps://www.aidshilfe-rlp.de/landau/angebote/

# AIDS-Hilfe Landau e.V. - Beratung

- Queichheimer Hauptstraße 28, 76829 Landau
- @info@aids-drogen-jugendhilfe.de
- **4**+49 (0) 634119411
- Opening hours:

Monday to Wednesday and Friday, 13:00 - 16:00 and by appointment

# Café Regenbogen

The café is run under the motto "Encounter creates tolerance". It is intended to be a meeting place for everyone. No matter what your attitude or background - HIV-positive people, young people, homo-, bi- or heterosexuals, people with drug problems, their relatives and friends, everyone can come.

You and me - everyone is welcome.

You can talk about any topic over a cup of coffee in an informal setting. Even if someone just wants to pour their heart out, this is the right place for them. Visitors can obtain information material from the BzgA, the LZG and other organisations and campaigns. You can also get free condoms.

The Project Café is a meeting place for various groups and projects. The rooms are also used to organise prevention activities outside the official opening hours. Sometimes there are also cultural events, for example poetry slams, reading stages or small concerts as part of special event series. Further information can be found in the events calendar on the homepage.

## Café Regenbogen

- Queichheimer Hauptstraße 28, 76829 Landau
- @info@aids-drogen-jugendhilfe.de
- +49 (0) 634188688
- https://www.aidshilfe-rlp.de/landau/
- Opening hours:





Monday to Wednesday and Friday, 13:00 - 16:00 and by appointment

## breastcare app - Germany's multilingual app for more early breast cancer detection

Pink Ribbon Germany has been campaigning for more early breast cancer detection in Germany for over 10 years. Now, for the first time, the non-profit campaign offers an app with comprehensive information on breast cancer and early detection for German-speaking women as well as for women with other linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

The breastcare app is an app on the topic of breast awareness, which is intended to bring this important topic closer not only to German-speaking women, but especially to women with a migration background. The aim is to reach every woman in her mother tongue.

In addition to German, English, French, Spanish and Turkish, Standard Arabic and Farsi are now also available.

The app is free. It is available in the Apple and Google App Stores, or via the website.

All functions of the app can be used without registration.

People with impairments or disabilities (integration assistance, I-Kraft)

# Representing the interests of people with disabilities in the Germersheim district

When people have a disability, they or their families sometimes need help to represent their interests. There are special people who can help with this. These people are called "representatives for the interests of people with disabilities". They advocate for the interests of people with disabilities and their families. If someone needs help, they can turn to them. Their aim is to reduce disadvantages and ensure that everyone is treated equally and can participate.

The representatives have the following tasks:

- They provide advice and support on disability policy.
- They draw attention to the special needs of people with disabilities in the administration, in political groups and in society.
- They support municipal planning when it comes to the interests of people with disabilities.
- They advise institutions, organisations and companies.
- They are contact persons for complaints, problems or when someone wants support.
- They provide neutral information and mediate when necessary.

# Miriam Spieß | Kreisverwaltung Germersheim - Interessenvertretung Menschen mit Behinderung

Waldstraße 13a, 76726 Germersheim

@m.spiess@kreis-germersheim.de

+49 (0) 727453429



# Integration assistance

People with impairments or disabilities often need help in various areas of their lives. This help can come from other people or from money. This help is called integration assistance.

With this help, people should be able to decide for themselves how they want to live. They should be able to make their own decisions. They can apply for integration assistance for this purpose.

Who can receive integration assistance? People who have physical, mental or psychological impairments or problems with their senses.

The benefits of integration assistance include

- · Help with medical rehabilitation,
- · Help to participate in working life,
- · Help with education,
- help with social contacts.

If you need more information, you can contact your local social welfare office. You can also apply for integration assistance there.

- Further information on integration assistance can be found at
- Information from the Southern Palatinate Integration Network on services, assistance, facilities and their providers in the Southern Palatinate can be found at here.
- · Information from the state government
- Information in plain language can be found <u>here</u>

# Special needs kindergarten and integration assistance (I-Kraft)

There are children who need more help and support in kindergarten than others. There is the option of continuing to attend the regular kindergarten. This can be achieved with the support of an I-Kraft. This can also be an option if the child does not get a place in a special kindergarten. The parents can then apply for integration support.

The I-workers accompany and support the child in everyday kindergarten life. Parents can submit an application to the social welfare office. This is called an application for benefits for participation in education.

Would you like to submit an application for an I-Kraft? Then please get in touch with the following contact:

Soziale Dienste Eingliederungshilfe Kreis Germersheim

Sometimes, however, the support in kindergarten is not enough. Then children are unable to cope despite the help of an I-person. They need more support. Then they can attend a special needs kindergarten.





#### What is different in a special needs kindergarten?

Special needs kindergartens often have smaller groups and more teachers. This means that there are more adults looking after fewer children. This allows the children to receive more support. They always have one person who can actively engage with them.

The team of educators in the special needs kindergarten often consists of a colourful team. It is made up of various specialisms, including, for example

- Educators
- · curative education nurses
- Health and nursing staff
- speech therapists
- · occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Psychologists

In the district of Germersheim there is a special needs kindergarten run by Lebenshilfe Germersheim. Further information on this topic can be found <u>here</u>.

# **Special schools**

Sometimes children and young people need extra help at school. If they are not coping well in a normal school and need more support, they can attend a special school. Parents can decide for themselves which special school they would like to attend.

There are fewer children in a class at special schools. There are more teachers who cater to the special needs of the children.

Special schools have different specialisms, for example

- Learning
- Holistic development
- Language
- Social-emotional development
- Motor development
- Vision and hearing

There are two special schools in the district of Germersheim: one specialising in language and one specialising in learning. If you would like more information about the special schools, you can look them up here.

#### **Lebenshilfe Germersheim**

Lebenshilfe Germersheim helps people with disabilities in a special way. They give everyone the support they need to lead a fulfilling life. It is important that the wishes and needs of people with disabilities are always taken into account. This allows them to live and develop according to their own abilities and possibilities.





# Geschäfts- und Beratungsstelle der Lebenshilfe Germersheim für Menschen mit Behinderung

Marktstraße 12, 76744 Wörth am Rhein

@info@lebenshilfe-ger.de

+49 (0) 7271934190

https://www.lebenshilfe-ger.de/

Care: Need for care, care support centres and care insurance

## **Need for care**

Some people cannot (or can no longer) look after themselves. Then they need care. Sometimes this happens suddenly. Sometimes more gradually. This can be the case after an accident. Or if they are ill. Or they have a disability. It can affect young or older people.

Those affected and their relatives (families) often have many questions:

- What can I do to prevent or overcome the need for care?
- · How much help do I really need?
- · What help is available?
- · How and where do I want to live?
- What do I need so that I can live at home for as long as possible?
- What costs will I incur?
- What applications do I need to make? Where do I have to submit them?
- · What services are available for people with dementia?
- What rights and obligations do I have?

## Care support centres

The care support centres can answer all these questions for people with statutory insurance. The service is free of charge. It is not tied to an organisation. The staff provide personalised and confidential advice. If you wish, you can also seek advice at home. The care support centres always pay attention to the wishes and needs of those affected.

The services offered by the care support centres apply to:

- · All people who have questions about care and help in everyday life
- · Children, young people and adults in need of care
- · Relatives, friends and acquaintances

The care support centres provide advice on these topics:

- · Organisation of care at home
- Outpatient assistance (meals on wheels, home emergency call, transport services)





- Other options for relief (employment/care by private individuals or services, domestic help, day care, rehabilitation)
- · Adaptation of the home for the disabled
- · Help for dementia sufferers
- · Information on moving to an inpatient care facility

The care support centres also provide assistance in dealing with the authorities. They provide advice on applications and funding options.

For those with private insurance, there is a care counselling service from 😭 "Compass".

# Care support centres in the district of Germersheim

There are a total of four care support centres in the district of Germersheim. The care support centre in which the person in need of help lives is responsible.

# Andrea Herrmann | Pflegestützpunkt - Stadt Germersheim / VG Lingenfeld

- Sismarckstraße 12, 76726 Germersheim
- @andrea.herrmann@pflegestuetzpunkte-rlp.de
- **4**+49 (0) 72747030932
- https://www.sozialstation-germersheim.de/beratung/

Mrs Scheib

- 07274/7030177
- @christiane.scheib@pflegestuetzpunkte-rlp.de

# Stephanie Geiger | Pflegestützpunkt - VG Rülzheim, VG Bellheim

- Mittlere Ortsstraße 83, 76761 Rülzheim
- @stephanie.geiger@pflegestuetzpunkte-rlp.de
- <u>+49 (0) 7272750342</u>
- https://www.sozialstation-ruelzheim.de/wie-wir-be...

Mrs Pfirrmann

- 07272/972968
- rosa.pfirrmann@pflegestuetzpunkte-rlp.de





# Sarah Börckel | Pflegestützpunkt Kandel - Stadt Kandel, VG Kandel, VG Jockgrim

- **Q** Gartenstraße 8, 76870 Kandel
- @sarah.boerckel@pflegestuetzpunkte-rlp.de
- +49 (0) 72759487775
- https://www.sozialstation-ruelzheim.de/wie-wir-be...

# Manuela Adling | Pflegestützpunkt Wörth - Stadt Wörth, VG Hagenbach

- **♀** Keltenstraße 15a, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- @manuela.adling@pflegestuetzpunkte-rlp.de
- +49 (0) 72719816530
- https://www.sozialstation-woerth.de/pflegeberatung

Mrs Pfirrmann

- 07271/9816531
- rosa.pfirrmann@pflegestuetzpunkte-rlp.de
- Further information can be found here.

## Long-term care insurance

Most people in Germany automatically have long-term care insurance. It is part of health insurance. This means that you are insured for long-term care wherever you have health insurance. However, long-term care insurance only exists in certain cases. It only applies to people who have been covered by (health) insurance for at least 2 years in the last 10 years - before they became in need of care. For all others, the social welfare office of the district administration is responsible (information on care assistance can be found <a href="here">here</a>.

A person's need for care is assessed. The result is recorded in a care grade. There are five care levels. The higher the level of care, the more care benefits are paid by the care insurance fund.

When people need care, they usually want to continue living at home. Care insurance offers several options:

- · Family members can take over the care
- · Friends can take over the care
- · A care service can take over the care

Various things can be paid for through care insurance:





- Care allowance, if friends or family provide the care
- · the care benefit itself, i.e. help from a care service
- Aids for care, for example a care bed, protective gloves or a home emergency call system
- Companionship or care services
- Domestic help

It is possible to be cared for 24 hours (during the day and/or at night). People who need care can either stay at home or go into a care home.

Some services are not paid for by care insurance. These are covered by health insurance. These include, for example, wound care or the administration of medication by a nursing service. And also certain ambulance journeys.

Sometimes family members care for a person and work at the same time. In this case, you can be released from work. This can be for a shorter or longer period of time. You can decide how long you want to take time off. It also depends on how quickly and for how long someone needs care.

Further information is available from the Federal Ministry of Health: Pflegeversicherung and Leistungen der Pflegeversicherung

You can find more information in plain language at here

# End-of-life care: hospice and palliative care

## Who can seriously ill people turn to at the end of their lives?

Some people are so seriously ill that they will not live much longer. There is support for them and their families.

The seriously ill can be cared for at home or in facilities. This happens

- at home
- · in hospitals with a palliative care unit
- · in care facilities
- in hospices

Here, the symptoms of the illness are treated as best as possible. Attempts are made to improve the quality of life.

The aim is for these people to be able to spend as much time as possible at home.

# Further information on support services

The Coordination Centre for Hospice and Palliative Care in Germany provides explanatory videos on the topic:

\* Arabic: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnClxyukGmw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnClxyukGmw</a>

\* English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4B2-yywl 5U





- \* French: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeDuCje5zZM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeDuCje5zZM</a>
- \* Turkish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0FHnk 0WTw
- \* Ukrainian: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kMNk7AbFN4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kMNk7AbFN4</a>

There is also an online guide as a text version in ten languages:

- \* Arabic: https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/ar
- \* German: https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/
- \* English: https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/en
- \* French: <a href="https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/fr">https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/fr</a>
- \* Polish: https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/pl
- \* Romanian: <a href="https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/ro">https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/ro</a>
- \* Russian: https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/ru
- \* Turkish: <a href="https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/tr">https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/tr</a>
- \* Ukrainian: https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/uk
- \* Vietnamese: https://wegweiser-hospiz-palliativmedizin.de/vi

# In the district of Germersheim, you can find support here:

The Caritas Centre Germersheim offers end-of-life care. This is called an outpatient hospice and palliative counselling service. It is for those affected themselves and their family members. The team consists of people who work full-time or on a voluntary basis.

The service can help as soon as someone learns that they have an illness with which they will not live much longer. Sometimes the support only lasts a few hours. But it can also last for years.

Those affected decide for themselves how often the Caritas staff visit them. They also decide whether their relatives should be present during the counselling sessions. They decide for themselves which topics they want to discuss. After all, the aim is to make their lives as comfortable as possible. The sick and their families should be prepared as well as possible for dying and death.

Some of the staff at the Caritas centre speak not only German, but also other languages. As soon as the end of life approaches, it is important for many people to speak more in their mother tongue again. This makes them feel more secure and accepted.

Dying in a familiar environment is also important. This is one of the aims of the hospice service. It is about quality in life, but also in dying. The counsellor tries to recognise what is currently needed.

The hospice carers have previous medical experience. They can therefore also advise on medical issues. They can answer questions that arise after a visit to the doctor. Or they can offer





psychological support. Help with coping with pain is also possible.

# **Caritas Zentrum - Ambulanter Hospizdienst**

**Q**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim

@ahpb-germersheim@caritas-speyer.de

**4**+49 (0) 7274703467

https://www.caritas-speyer.de/

#### Who can families with sick children turn to?

Sometimes even the youngest children are affected by an illness. If sick children, adolescents or young adults are not expected to live much longer, families can turn to a children's hospice. For the district of Germersheim, the **Sterntaler children's hospice** in Dudenhofen near Speyer is the closest.

The basic idea of a children's hospice is that dying is part of life. The life and dignity of each individual is treated with respect. It is important to treat each other with respect. The people there show respect, tolerance and openness - regardless of religion, ideology or origin. It is not important what religion or political views someone has.

# Stationäres Kinderhospiz Sterntaler

**♥** Kettelerstraße 17-19, 67373 Dudenhofen

**4**+49 (0) 62117822330

https://www.kinderhospiz-sterntaler.de/

## Health care for asylum seekers

#### General information

In Germany, asylum seekers are also entitled to basic medical care. If they are in pain or acutely ill, they can go to a doctor. The doctor can also carry out the officially recommended vaccinations and check-ups. They only receive further medical services if they are absolutely necessary to "safeguard their health".

A visit to the doctor is necessary if people

- · are acutely ill,
- · if they are in pain,
- if they are chronically ill (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, mental illness, etc.),
- · if they are pregnant.

It is good if you bring any remaining medication or the package leaflet with you if you still have it.





- Multilingual health information for refugees and doctors.
- Information on the legal situation regarding healthcare for refugees

# **General practitioners**

In Germany, general practitioners are the first port of call for all physical and mental illnesses.

- They provide basic care.
- They are the first point of contact for all health complaints.
- They carry out an initial examination and decide on further treatment.

If it is necessary for a specialist to provide further treatment, the sick person can receive a referral from the general practitioner.

# **Specialist**

Specialists are specialised in a medical field. They provide further treatment. However, this requires a referral from the general practitioner.

Operations can quickly become expensive. If an operation needs to be performed, the doctor can draw up a cost estimate after the examination. This will state approximately how much the operation will cost. **The social welfare office must approve this cost estimate before the planned operation.** Otherwise the costs will not be covered. This also applies to treatment by a psychotherapist.

If your life is in danger, always call the emergency services immediately ( 112).

# **Medication and pharmacies**

Certain medications require a prescription (e.g. antibiotics). The doctor's surgery must issue a prescription for this. The prescription can be redeemed for medication at any pharmacy.

But even with a prescription, not all medicines are free of charge. If you are unsure whether the medication costs anything, you can ask at the doctor's surgery. Without a prescription, you will always have to pay for the medication at the pharmacy.



You can recognise pharmacies by a

It may be that the pharmacy you want to go to is already closed. If this is the case, you will find information about the pharmacy emergency service on the sign. You can get medication from the pharmacy emergency service at any time, even at night.

# Linguistic support for health issues

The web portal ZANZU of the Federal Centre for Health Education is available in various languages, including Arabic, Farsi, Turkish, Romanian, Russian and English. It serves as a





concrete working and translation aid for daily counselling practice. Some of the information is provided in the native language. The web portal provides a guide to the German health and counselling system. This provides discreet and direct access to knowledge (for reading and listening).

You will find these topics in the web portal:

- · Health,
- · contraception,
- · Body knowledge,
- · Pregnancy and birth
- · Rights and laws in Germany.

You can also find multilingual information on the topic of health <u>here</u>.

#### Information on services

#### Health services in the event of illness

## Health treatment voucher

If asylum seekers fall ill or are in pain, they need a health treatment voucher. They can obtain this from the responsible administration of the <u>city or municipality</u>. These certificates can be collected directly. Or they can be sent by post. The sickness certificates are valid for the respective quarter (3 months). Or for the individual day of treatment.

It is important to visit the doctor:

- Anyone who does not feel well must always see a family doctor (general practitioner) first.
   If this doctor is unable to help, patients can go on to a specialist. To do this, however, they need confirmation from their family doctor.
- If you want to see a specialist, you need prior authorisation from the <u>city council or local</u> <u>authority</u>. They will check the confirmation from the GP.
- The confirmation must state as precisely as possible what is wrong with the patient. And why another doctor should continue treatment. You must submit this confirmation to the administration. They will then issue a sickness certificate for the specialist doctor.

# Services in emergencies

If asylum seekers have an emergency and need to go to hospital, the hospital must inform the Germersheim district administration (Social Assistance Department) directly. The hospital submits an application to the district administration so that the costs of the treatment can be covered. The hospital and the district administration then settle accounts directly with each other.

• If you have an emergency and need emergency treatment from a doctor (e.g. at the weekend), this will be billed via an emergency voucher





- If an ambulance has to come or if patient transport is necessary, the central billing centre
  will settle the bill directly with the responsible municipal authorities/association
  administrations.
- If you take a taxi to the doctor, you sometimes have to pay the costs yourself. A portion of
  this is included in the pocket money. A taxi journey can only be paid for by the
  administration if the doctor believes that the journey is necessary.

If patients are so ill that they need to be hospitalised for a longer period of time or an operation is necessary (even on an outpatient basis), this must be approved in advance. However, this does not apply to emergencies.

The Social Assistance Department of the Germersheim district administration must give its approval. Medical officers will check in advance whether the operation or hospitalisation is necessary.

#### Other benefits

It is possible to receive further benefits. These are called other benefits. They are regulated in § 6 AsylbLG.

If there are reasons for this, these benefits can be paid:

- to cover living expenses (for example, medical expenses, initial equipment, ...),
- for health (care benefits in kind, hearing aids, ...),
- to cover special needs of children (support in integrative kindergartens...) or
- to fulfil the obligation to cooperate required by the administration (travel costs to the responsible embassy or return counselling, ...)

#### How do I find a doctor?



- Practice finder Rhineland-Palatinate
- To the health information system (GIS) of the German Medical Association
- App of the German Medical Association (for iOS and Android)

## **Health information**

- Multilingual health information
- Health information portal for refugees

Psychosocial counselling for refugees

**Psychosocial Centre (PSZ) Palatinate** 





Many people who have had to flee their home country suffer from <u>trauma</u>. Some of them have been victims of human rights violations. They have often experienced torture and violence. And they need special protection. Some refugees have become mentally or physically ill as a result of their experiences.

There are counselling centres for these people. The Psychosocial Centre (PSZ) Palatinate can advise and support them.

The counselling centre also helps people who accompany refugees. The counselling centre can provide helpers with information on psychosocial support for refugees. Working with refugees can also sometimes be difficult for the helpers. The counselling centre can also help them to take care of themselves.

The PSZ has counselling centres in Ludwigshafen, Speyer, Germersheim and Kandel.

Counselling is free of charge. Everything discussed in the counselling session remains confidential. The counsellors are bound to confidentiality. They are not allowed to talk to third parties about the counselling sessions.

# Psychosoziales Zentrum (PSZ) Ludwigshafen

- **♀** Wredestraße 19, 67059 Ludwigshafen
- @psz@diakonie-pfalz.de
- **4**+49 (0) 62149077710
- https://www.diakonie-pfalz.de/ich-suche-hilfe/hil...
- Please make an appointment

Telephone consultation: Tuesday, 14:00 - 16:00h

Are you physically disabled? Then the counselling can take place in a barrier-free office

# Psychosoziales Zentrum (PSZ) - Außenstelle Germersheim

- QLuitpoldplatz 1, 76726 Germersheim
- @psz-pfalz@diakonie-pfalz.de
- **4**+49 (0) 17611664084
- https://www.diakonie-pfalz.de/ich-suche-hilfe/hil...

# Psychosoziales Zentrum (PSZ) - Außenstelle Kandel

- Schulgasse 2a, 76870 Kandel
- @psz-pfalz@diakonie-pfalz.de
- +49 (0) 17611664084
- https://www.diakonie-pfalz.de/ich-suche-hilfe/hil...





# Psychosoziales Zentrum (PSZ) - Außenstelle Erstaufnahmeeinrichtung für Asylbegehrende (AfA) Speyer

- Spaldinger Straße 100, 67346 Speyer
- @psz-pfalz@diakonie-pfalz.de
- +49 (0) 62149077730
- https://www.diakonie-pfalz.de/ich-suche-hilfe/hil...
- Please make an appointment

# Trauma: counselling and help

#### What is trauma?

The word trauma comes from the Greek and means "wound". A trauma is a stressful event or situation that a person is unable to cope with and process. Trauma often occurs when people have experienced violence. This can happen in the case of physical or psychological violence. A dream is always a "psychological injury".

There are various events that affect people. And which can trigger a trauma. These include

- · Serious accidents,
- · illnesses,
- natural disasters,
- · psychological, physical or sexual violence
- · severe experiences of loss and neglect

These events can leave deep wounds in the soul. They can affect a person for a lifetime. A dream needs time to heal. Just like a physical injury, an injury to the soul also takes time.

Trauma often occurs in these groups of people:

- post-traumatic stress disorder in injured soldiers
- · refugees,
- · victims of violent crime,
- · accident victims.

Trauma is often purely psychological at the beginning. However, it can also affect the body later on. Psychosomatic consequences then develop.

## How do I recognise whether someone has a trauma or not?

It is usually difficult to recognise whether someone has suffered a trauma or not. In many cases, those affected cannot talk openly about it. Many symptoms only become apparent later.

#### How can I help?

It is difficult to help a traumatised person without the appropriate experience or training. Professional trauma work should be left to trained specialists. The best help is to organise help





and counselling for those affected. The <u>Psychosocial Centre (PSZ) Palatinate</u> can provide support here.

# How can traumatised refugees be supported?

There are various guides on the subject. For example from the Federal Chamber of Psychotherapists. These guides are aimed at full-time and voluntary refugee helpers and refugee parents. They provide information on how to recognise a traumatic illness. They also explain what refugee helpers can do. Or what they should not do.

- Guide for refugee helpers German (PDF)
- Guide for refugee parents German (PDF)
- Guide for refugee parents English (PDF)
- Guide for refugee parents Arabic (PDF)

## How can parents help their traumatised children?

The parents' guide of the German Federal Chamber of Psychotherapists (BPtK) supports parents with the question "How do I help my traumatised child?" with its online offer.

The advice is categorised by age group - for toddlers, pre-school children, schoolchildren and adolescents.

The information is available in seven different languages.

Click here for the parents' guide for refugees.

## **Further information**

- Federal Association of Psychosocial Centres for Refugees and Torture Victims (BAFF)
- IN TERRA Psychosocial Centre for Refugees, Mayen
- Ecumenical Counselling Centre for Refugees, Trier
- Psychosocial centre for refugees and trauma

# People without health insurance

# Clearing centre for people without health insurance

**Are you ill and have no insurance?** There is a centre for this in Rhineland-Palatinate. It is called the **Health Insurance Clearing Centre.** Its aim is to support people who have no health insurance so that they are covered (again) when they are ill.

The Clearing Centre also provides advice in specific individual cases.

The clearing centre provides support and advice:

- People without papers
- · People from third countries





- EU citizens
- Germans who do not have health insurance

The Clearing Centre helps people without insurance to be accepted back into normal health insurance. Everything that is discussed at the clearing centre is confidential. If you wish, the counselling can also be anonymous. Please enquire beforehand.

# Mainz c/o Armut und Gesundheit in Deutschland e.V.

- 06131/6198611
- 0174/7798987 or 0176/76706245
- kontakt@cskv-rlp.de
- Clearing centre for health insurance in Rhineland-Palatinate

# Ludwigshafen/Worms c/o Ökumenische Fördergemeinschaft GmbH

- 0621/65050354
- 0176/56719809
- christahl@foerdergemeinschaft.de

# Koblenz c/o Caritasverband Koblenz e.V.

- Neustadt 20, 56068 Koblenz
- 0261/91469718
- 0160/91718826
- Clearing@caritas-koblenz.de

# Acute emergencies - treatment in hospital

There are two hospitals in the Germersheim district. They are called Asklepios clinics and are located in Germersheim and Kandel.

# Asklepios Südpfalzklinik Germersheim

- An Fronte Karl 2, 76726 Germersheim
- +49 (0) 72745040
- https://www.asklepios.com/germersheim/

# Asklepios Südpfalzklinik Kandel

QLuitpoldstraße 14, 76870 Kandel





## **49** (0) 7275710

https://www.asklepios.com/kandel/

## Are you an asylum seeker and don't have a health insurance certificate?

Asylum seekers can also be treated in an acute emergency without a medical certificate. In an emergency, you can go directly to a hospital or emergency outpatient clinic.

#### Who pays the costs?

The clinic informs the Germersheim District Administration - Social Assistance Department directly. There they can apply for the costs to be covered. The costs are then settled between the clinic and the district administration. Asylum seekers do not have to pay anything for the treatment.

# **Notruf - Emergency Call**

In the event of an **emergency** (acute health threat outside of medical opening hours) may you be admitted to hospital without a medical treatment certificate (Behandlungsschein).

# **Emergency numbers**

If you find yourself in a helpless situation, call the

**Police 110** 

or

# Fire brigade, rescue service, emergency doctor **112**

These telephone numbers work without area code from all landlines or mobile networks. The emergency numbers also work on mobile phones without credit!

It is important to answer the following questions to the rescue centre on the phone:

- · Who is calling?
- · Where did it happen?
- · What happened?
- · How many injured or sick people are there? Are they children or adults?
- What kind of injuries or illnesses are there?

When calling, it is especially important to stay calm and speak clearly so that you are better understood. The conversation should not simply end. The emergency service / police will end the call when all necessary information has been provided.





# Education, work and employment

Preschool: Griffbereit and HIPPY (Home Interaction for Parents and Preschool Youngsters)

#### **Preschool**

# Griffbereit - promoting language, playing and discovering together

#### Who is Griffbereit for?

Griffbereit is a parent-child group for families with children aged 1 to 3 - with and without a migration background.

#### What does Griffbereit do?

We sing, dance, play, paint, do handicrafts and much more.

The children learn German before they even start kindergarten. At the same time, parents are given tips on how to consolidate their mother tongue. Children with German as their mother tongue learn about other languages and cultures.

German is spoken at the group meetings. The languages and cultures of origin of the families are included.

Parents learn how they can support their children in their linguistic and general development. They also learn about other cultures.

It is possible to join and get a taste of the programme at any time. Please register in advance.

# Lena Brückom | Kinderschutzbund Germersheim - Projekt Griffbereit

**Q** Waldstraße 5, 76726 Germersheim

@hippy@kinderschutzbund-germersheim.de

+49 (0) 72749491804

<u>+49 (0) 15227000806</u>

https://kinderschutzbund-germersheim.de/unser-pro...

# **Meetings:**

Mondays from 10:00 to 11:30h

# **HIPPY (Home Interaction for Parents and Preschool Youngsters)**

Who is HIPPY for?





**HIPPY** means: Home Interaction for Parents and Preschool Youngsters. It is a family programme for 4-6 year old children that is carried out at home by the parents. It is based on reading aloud and discovering children's books in a variety of ways.

HIPPY is open to all interested parents. It is also aimed at families with a migration background.

## What does HIPPY do? And how long does the programme last?

HIPPY lasts one to two years.

Parents are given ideas on how to encourage their children through play and are supported in implementing the programme.

#### **HIPPY** consists of three parts:

- 1. **Weekly meetings:** a meeting with a mentor takes place every week (as a home visit or group meeting at the KSB). The mentor shows the parents how to read with their child in a playful and beneficial way. She also demonstrates exercises to prepare for school. There are specific tasks for each day.
- 2. **Work at home:** After the meeting, the parents work on the tasks discussed with their child for 15-20 minutes a day. This is intended to strengthen the parent-child relationship.
- 3. **Group meetings with short presentations:** the presentations deal with topics relevant to parenting (family disputes, healthy eating, rules and boundaries and others), followed by a discussion. The parental role is strengthened.

We have the option of guiding the families in Russian, Arabic or Turkish, but the programme is open to all families. Our mentors have a migrant background themselves and many years of experience with newcomer families.



## **Child Protection Association**

# Lena Brückom | Kinderschutzbund Germersheim - Projekt HIPPY

- Waldstraße 5, 76726 Germersheim
- @hippy@kinderschutzbund-germersheim.de
- +49 (0) 72749491804
- https://kinderschutzbund-germersheim.de/unser-pro...

HIPPY-Flyer.pdf

## Consultation hours:

Monday to Thursday, 9:00 - 12:00h

## Daycare centre social work

Is your child going to daycare?





- Do you need counselling and support?
- Do you need help filling out applications and forms?
- Do you have to go to the authorities and need support?
- · Do you have questions about parenting?
- Do you have questions about your child's development?
- Is your child moving from kindergarten to school and you need help or have questions?

Then you can contact the daycare centre social work. It is available in many daycare centres in the district of Germersheim.

The daycare centre social workers also help families to network locally. The daycare centre social workers support the families, for example, in placing the children in clubs. Or they accompany them to counselling centres.

They can also advise the daycare centre teams and the management. In this way, the employees can relieve and support the educational specialists on site. If desired, the daycare centre social workers can carry out projects together in the daycare centre or in the social area. These projects can be organised together with the family office or the child protection association, for example.

Daycare centre social workers are important bridge builders. They fulfil a guiding function. They provide referrals to other suitable help and preventative services on site.

The daycare centre social work service is voluntary and open to all. It is also free of charge.

Daycare centre social work is currently available in these facilities in the district of Germersheim:

## City of Germersheim and Sondernheim:

- Municipal daycare centres: Kleine Strolche daycare centre, Alter Hafen daycare centre, Kinderland daycare centre, Pusteblume daycare centre, Sterntaler daycare centre, Rappelkiste daycare centre
- Protestant daycare centres: Kita Sonnenschein, Kita Arche Noah, Kita Sonnenschein

# Local community of Bellheim:

· Municipal daycare centres: Kita Spatzennest, Kita Flohzirkus, Kita Hasenspiel

## **Local community of Lustadt**

• Villa Lustica" daycare centre

#### **Local community of Neuburg**

Protestant daycare centre

#### **Town of Wörth:**

 Protestant daycare centres: J.F. Oberlin daycare centre, Louise-Scheppler daycare centre, Friedenskita daycare centre





 Municipal daycare centre Abtswald in Wörth (this position is currently advertised but not yet filled).

The daycare centre social workers are on site at the facilities on certain days. On the other days, they can be contacted by telephone. Anyone who is interested can make an appointment with them.

You can find the local contact persons here:

Daycare centre social work district GER status 03.25.pdf

Reading, writing and arithmetic

# Reading, writing and arithmetic

# **KVHS Literacy and Basic Education Course**

The Kreisvolkshochschule (KVHS) offers free support and encouragement in reading and writing.

The literacy and basic education courses of the European Social Fund (ESF) are co-financed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Further Education and Culture (MBWWK) of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Every Tuesday from 18:00 - 19:30h and Thursday from 16:30 - 18:00h

The course is continuous and always ends at the end of the year.

- Further information from the kvhs
- vhs Portal reading, writing, arithmetic

# **ALFA Telefon**

People who have problems with reading and writing can also call the free ALFA Telefon.

Those affected can ask questions here - without shame - get help or simply talk to someone about their problems.

The offer is free of charge and anonymous.

The <u>website</u> has a read aloud function.

It is also possible to contact us via <u>email</u> or <u>WhatsApp.</u> No one has to be afraid of making mistakes. In any case, the questions will be answered within three days.

0800/53334455

## School





# Compulsory education and school enrolment

# **Compulsory school attendance**

In Germany, all children from the age of 6 up to and including the age of 15 have to go to school. This is called compulsory education.

## How long does a child or young person have to go to school?

In Rhineland-Palatinate, compulsory schooling normally lasts 12 school years. However, there are circumstances in which compulsory schooling ends earlier:

- Anyone who has obtained the qualified secondary school leaving certificate I(Realschulabschluss) no longer has to go to school.
- Anyone who has finished school and wants to do an apprenticeship must attend a vocational school during their training.
- Young people who leave school without a qualified lower secondary school leaving certificate (Realschulabschluss) and do not start an apprenticeship or attend a secondary school(Gymnasium, integrated comprehensive school, vocational school) can attend a vocational preparation year or vocational school I for one year.

# **Enrolment at the school**

#### Do you want to enrol your child at a primary school?

The respective <u>citizens' offices of the municipality or city</u> can help with the enrolment of **school-age** children **of primary school age** (up to 4th grade).

## Do you want to enrol your child at a secondary school?

To enrol your child at a **secondary school** (from Year 5), you must contact the school directly.

You must bring these documents with you to enrol your child:

- · an identity card or proof of arrival
- · a certificate of registration
- all documents relating to the child (school reports, medical certificates, etc.)

## **School enrolment examination**

Before a child starts school, it must be examined by the public health department. This examination is called school enrolment examination. It is compulsory for all children who are due to start school.

Doctors from the public health service examine the children. They check whether the child has any health problems that could have a negative impact on their ability to go to school. The main aim of this examination is to start treatment or support measures in good time before the child starts school.





The doctors do not decide whether a child starts school. Nor do they decide whether the child will start school a year later. This decision is made by the school management. Normally, a child is only not enrolled in school if there are health reasons for this.

# Notifying the school of illness

If a child is ill or cannot go to school for important reasons, you must inform the school and sign the child out in good time in the morning. It is important that you call the school before lessons start.

# All-day school

All-day school means that children are at school for longer. Four days a week, this school also has lessons in the afternoon. Enrolment for all-day school is always valid for one year. Anyone who enrols is therefore obliged to attend for a whole school year.

The district of Germersheim has eleven district-run all-day schools.

## **Useful links:**

- Directory of all schools in the district of Germersheim
- School social workers in the district of Germersheim
- Lunch at secondary schools
- Social fund: Financial support for lunch catering
- Borrowing school books
- School transport

# School system

# **Primary school**

Children normally attend primary school for 4 years. All children who have their 6th birthday by 30 September of the following school year are required to attend school. This means that they must attend a primary school from the age of 6. Parents cannot choose the primary school themselves. The children are allocated to a primary school.

Once the children have attended primary school up to Year 4, they move on to a secondary school. Which school they then go to depends on how well the children do at school.

After primary school, the children can transfer to one of these schools:

# **Secondary schools**

From Year 5 onwards, children attend a secondary school. There are various types of school in the district of Germersheim:





#### Realschule Plus

Up to the 10th grade. At the Realschule you can either obtain a qualification called Berufsreife (after the 9th grade) or the Realschulabschluss (Mittlere Reife after the 10th grade).

#### **Grammar school**

Up to year 12 (Fachabitur, entitles you to study at universities of applied sciences) or year 13 (entitles you to study at all colleges and universities)

# Special schools

Pupils who have been identified by the school authorities as having special educational needs attend special schools. They have problems attending a mainstream school and need more support. Parents can then decide in favour of this place of learning.

Special schools have various special educational focuses:

- Learning,
- · holistic development,
- · language,
- social-emotional development
- motor development,
- vision and hearing.

The lessons are based on what the pupils have learnt so far and what they can still learn. The school offers special educational support from special school teachers and educational specialists.

There are fewer children in a class at a special school. There are more teachers. This means that the teachers can better cater to the special needs of each child. As a result, your child has a better chance of completing an education later on.

There are two special schools in the district of Germersheim:

- Schule mit dem Förderschwerpunkt Sprache (SFS) in Rülzheim: primary school children in their first and second year are taught here whose language is so impaired that they cannot be supported, or not sufficiently supported, in a mainstream school.
- <u>School specialising in learning in Germersheim</u>: pupils up to year 9 have the opportunity to receive individual support here.

## **Vocational schools**

Vocational schools (BBS) are often also called vocational schools. At this type of school, pupils receive a vocational or career-orientated qualification at the end:

· Vocational schools of dual vocational training ("apprenticeship"),





- masterclasses,
- · vocational colleges,
- · academies,
- · vocational schools,
- but also school types that lead to the Abitur, for example specialised secondary schools or vocational grammar schools with different specialisations (for example: WG = Wirtschaftsgymnasium, TG = Technisches Gymnasium).
- Overview of all schools in the district of Germersheim
- The school system simply explained (in 22 languages) <u>Attachment-Poster-Flyer in 22 languages (003).pdf</u>
- Click here for the brochure "This is the way forward", an overview for pupils and parents of all secondary schools in the district <a href="School flyer 2023.pdf">School flyer 2023.pdf</a>
- Click here for the brochure "The school system in Rhineland-Palatinate simply explained" from the RLP education server (translated into 23 languages)

## **Preparation for graduation**

School qualifications are very important in Germany. You need a school-leaving certificate for almost every job.

The lowest qualification is the Hauptschulabschluss. After graduation, there are many opportunities to gain further qualifications. The Federal Employment Agency also offers retraining programmes.

To prepare for these measures, you can attend a preparatory course. This is possible, for example, at the Germersheim District Adult Education Centre.

The preparatory course is for these groups

- unemployed young people who have not completed secondary school. They can use it to improve their chances of finding a job
- Adults who are already in employment. They sometimes need a lower secondary school leaving certificate in order to progress professionally
- Foreign young people who do not yet have a qualification. It is important that they understand the German language well enough.

In this course, anyone who is not attending school can catch up on their secondary school leaving certificate (vocational qualification).

## How long does the course last? Do I have to take an exam?

A preparation course lasts a total of ten months (two semesters / 260 lessons). At the end of the course, there is an examination before the Rhineland-Palatinate Supervisory and Service Directorate, which you have to pass.

## What subjects are taught?

The subjects taught are German, maths, geography, social studies, biology and English. It is important to note that only those who can speak and write German can take part in the





course.

There is also the opportunity to learn how to use a computer (IT skills) (20 lessons). This can be important when applying for jobs and in everyday working life.

VHS learning portal: School-leaving certificate

## School social work

Some children and young people have problems at school. Sometimes they are also in a difficult situation. Then they need help. School social work can help. The employees work at many schools in the district of Germersheim. They support children and young people at school and in their education. They help the children to integrate well into the community.

The school social workers help children and young people to cope well with everyday life at school. The help is aimed at

- · Children and young people
- parents
- · and the teaching staff

School social work does many different things. It doesn't just take place in the school. It also looks at the pupils' environment.

The tasks of school social work include

- · Group programmes, such as
- 1) Activities to strengthen the class community
- 2) Social skills training
- 3) Prevention projects
- 4) Teaching strategies for resolving conflicts
- Individual case help, i.e. support and counselling for pupils and their parents
- Collaboration in the development of the school
- · Support with projects in the school
- · Help with the transition from daycare centre to school
- Help with the transition from school to vocational training or higher education

As school social work covers many areas, the employees often work together with others. These include, for example

- School psychology service
- · Youth vocational assistance
- · youth welfare
- police
- · Child protection service





- · Youth welfare office
- · Family offices / family centres
- · Employment Agency
- · Job centre

Do you have any questions about school social work?

# Bernhard Würtz | Kreisverwaltung Germersheim - Teamleitung Jugendbildung

- **Q**Tournuser Platz 2, 76726 Germersheim
- **@**b.wuertz@kreis-germersheim.de
- **4**+49 (0) 727453108
- https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/buergerservice/j...

# Bettina Barnickel | Kreisverwaltung Germersheim - Sachgebietskoordination Schulsozialarbeit

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You can find a list of all school social workers in the district here: <u>20250114 Übersicht</u> <u>Schulsozialarbeit im Landkreis Germersheim.pdf.</u>

#### Intercultural assistants (IKAs)

Some children and young people with a migration background have problems at school. They are not familiar with the school system from their home country. Or they have problems in everyday school life. Sometimes there are also difficulties with the language. Or the parents are not familiar enough with the local school system and are unable to support their children. Often there is also too little communication between the parents and the teachers.

The **intercultural assistants (IKAs)** can help and advise with all these questions and problems.

They have been employed at many schools in the district of Germersheim since 1 September 2016. They are available at primary and secondary schools. There, they support pupils, teachers and parents in everyday school life. The IKAs mediate between individuals. And they support integration into the school.

The aim of the IKAs project is to ensure that as many children as possible graduate from school. By providing targeted support with integration, the children and young people are given a perspective.





#### The IKAs:

- · support children with a migration background in everyday school life
- · explain rules of behaviour or how to deal with work assignments
- · support integration into school
- · work on the pupils' social skills and language skills
- teach practical life skills (such as how to use scissors, pencils, etc.)
- support the schools' work with parents (discussions, letters to parents, visits to the authorities)

The intercultural assistants are employed by independent youth welfare organisations. The IKAs' services are free of charge for pupils and their parents. The costs are borne by the district.

# Ingrid Lindner | Kreisverwaltung Germersheim - Büro für Migration und Integration - Interkulturelle Assistenzen

- **Q**Tournuser Platz 2, 76726 Germersheim
- @i.lindner@kreis-germersheim.de
- +49 (0) 727453487
- https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/buergerservice/j...

#### After-school care and school childcare

Children who attend primary school (aged 7 to 12) can continue to be looked after after school.

School childcare (also known as after-school care) offers

- · a shared lunch,
- · homework supervision
- · playing with other children.

Parents can obtain information about after-school childcare services directly from the school

## **Education and participation package**

The education and participation package is a support programme in Germany. It is for families with low incomes. The children from these families should have the same opportunities for education and leisure as other children with this support. The aim of the support programme is therefore to enable families to take advantage of school and leisure activities that they would otherwise not be able to afford. The offer is for children, teenagers and young adults.

Families can apply for financial support.

The education and participation package is available in these areas:

· Lunch at daycare centres and schools





- Excursions and school trips to daycare centres, schools or after-school care centres (for one or more days)
- Participation in social and cultural life (i.e. sports, games, culture and much more, for example in clubs or organisations)
- · Equipment with the necessary things for school
- Travel costs for pupils to get to school
- · Appropriate learning support

Children are entitled to the education package if their parents (or the children themselves) receive one of these benefits:

- Citizen's allowance (from the job centre)
- Housing benefit (WoGG)
- Child supplement (BKGG)
- Asylum seeker benefits (AsylbLG)
- SGB XII (social assistance, basic income support in old age and in the event of permanent reduction in earning capacity)

The education package generally applies up to the age of 25. In the case of benefits for participation in culture, sport and leisure activities, children/young people must not be older than 18. However, only pupils attending a general or vocational school are eligible for support. They may not receive money from an apprenticeship.

## Would you like to submit an application?

Then you can find it here:

- Ausflüge Klassenfahrten 01 2023.pdf
- Lernförderung 01 2023.pdf
- Lunch 01 2023.pdf
- Schulbedarf 01 2023.pdf
- School transport 01 2023.pdf
- Social and cultural participation 01 2023 (1).pdf

# Do you need personal advice?

Then the staff of FB 23 can help you further

# Frau Rödel | FB 23 - Soziale Hilfen, Bereich Bildung und Teilhabe

Sismarckstraße 4, 76726 Germersheim

@u.roedel@kreis-germersheim.de

+49 (0) 727453261

https://www.kreis-germersheim.de/buergerservice/j...

Mrs Scholz





Waldstraße 13a, 76726 Germersheim

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@p.scholz@kreis-germersheim.de

Mrs Weigold

Sismarckstraße 4, 76726 Germersheim

07274/531765

@g.weigold@kreis-germersheim.de

Applications can be posted in the letterbox of the district administration.

- Further information on the package for education and participation can be found here: Brochure BuT (2).pdf.
- The relevant application forms and further information can also be found <u>here</u>.

# **Vocational training**

# Vocational training

In Germany, it is good to have a vocational qualification. People with a vocational qualification usually have better employment contracts. And they also have better opportunities on the labour market.

There are two ways to learn a profession in Germany:

- 1. By studying at a university
- 2. through dual or full-time school-based training

## **Dual training**

Training in a company is also known as dual training. It is the most common form of training in Germany.

Normally, you need a secondary school leaving certificate for dual training.

Dual training is divided into two parts:

Trainees spend around 1/3 of their time at vocational school. The other 2/3 of the time they are in a training company. This is good because it allows them to familiarise themselves with theory and practice at the same time. You also earn money while you are training in a company. The apprenticeship lasts between two and three and a half years.

There are over 320 training occupations in total.

Are you interested in dual training?





Then it's best to apply directly to a company. Many employers start looking for trainees very early on. Apprenticeships are often advertised and filled a year in advance.

Most apprenticeships start on 1 August or 1 September each year.

## Still unable to find an apprenticeship?

Some companies are still looking for trainees until the summer. So it's always worth sending off an application, even at short notice.

If you do well in your apprenticeship, you can continue your training afterwards. This makes it possible, for example, to take on management tasks in the company later on. Or become self-employed.

## The chambers are responsible for training occupations:

- Palatinate Chamber of Skilled Crafts (HWK) for skilled trades.
- Palatinate Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) for commercial, technical and IT professions

# Rhineland-Palatinate Chamber of Agriculture (LWK) for "green professions".

There you can find

- · Information on the professions
- · Counselling services on the topic of career choice
- · Trade fairs for apprenticeships
- · Support in the search for an apprenticeship
- · Placement in training places
- Placement in internships
- · Application training
- · Other support programmes specifically for people with a migration background

## Do you still have questions about the dual training system?

The Ruhr Chamber of Industry and Commerce has produced explanatory films on the dual training system in various languages.

# Vocational preparation year (BVJ)

# Don't have a school-leaving qualification?

Then you can catch up in a vocational preparation year. Young people are prepared there for entry into vocational training or employment. The programme is available to anyone who has not started training or work after attending a general school (e.g. Realschule plus, Förderschule Lernen).





The prerequisite for the BVJ is that they have attended the general school for at least 9 years.

The BVJ lasts one school year. It normally takes place in full-time lessons. It is organised according to vocational fields. Anyone who successfully completes the BVJ (as part of the vocational school) automatically receives a vocational qualification. In other words, a secondary school leaving certificate.

# **Admission requirements**

The prerequisite for admission to the BVJ is

that the school was attended for at least 9 years and

- a) a leaving certificate from the Realschule plus or
- b) a certificate from a school specialising in learning (leaving certificate or leaving certificate)
- c) an equivalent qualification

There are various options following the BVJ. It is possible, for example

- 1. entry into vocational training
- 2. transition to vocational school I
- 3. Entry into a pre-vocational training programme offered by the Federal Employment Agency

# Full-time training at a vocational school

In Germany, it is also possible to complete a training programme at a vocational school. This is called full-time school-based training.

At a vocational school, you can complete vocational training in theory and practice. This means that there is no apprenticeship in a company. The training programme normally lasts two to three and a half years.

The lessons are full-time. It consists of various subjects:

- subjects that relate to specific professions and
- general education subjects.

The vocational schools are very different. They have different directions and conditions for admission. The duration of the training programme also varies. There are various options for further education after the training programme. It is therefore important to enquire at the respective school in each individual case.

# Many training places are not filled

In recent years, companies have found it increasingly difficult to fill training places. In 2023, companies that wanted to provide training were unable to find trainees for 49 per cent of their





apprenticeships in the current training year. (Source: DIHK)

Small companies with fewer than 50 employees are having particular difficulties. There is also a noticeable shortage of young talent in the construction industry.

It is therefore always worth applying, even at short notice if necessary.

# Further contact points for training

- Advice and offers from the Germersheim district administration can be found here
- Apprenticeship exchange of the Germersheim/Wörth vocational school (BBS). This is where
  the BBS posts vacant training places from its dual partners Padlet BBS
- Available apprenticeships and dual study programmes
- azubiyo
- aubi-plus
- Ausbildungsmarkt.de
- ausbildung123.de
- meinestadt.de
- Further information on recognition and qualification counselling
- Benefits for training support

# Counselling and offers for vocational training

# Youth vocational assistance of the Germersheim district administration

The Youth Vocational Assistance Centre supports young people in the transition from school to work. To this end, it works together with schools. And also with everyone involved in school life.

In the district of Germersheim, the Youth Vocational Assistance Centre is made up of

- 1) the Coordination of Youth Vocational Assistance with the "Training Mentors" project. This also includes the Youth Vocational Assistance Working Group
- 2) the youth employment agency "Impuls"
- 3) and the youth scout.

## The youth scout

The youth scout can provide advice and support. They help in individual cases. They work with young people between the ages of 15 and 25.

The youth scout can help with

- · the search for an apprenticeship
- · finding a profession





- · job application training
- · preparing for job interviews
- · counselling in the event of conflicts
- · dealing with public authorities. It can provide support here
- · integration into qualification programmes

The work of the youth scout is intended to prepare young people for the labour market. In this way, the youth scout helps young people to take responsibility for their own lives.

#### **Further information**

to the flyer of the youth vocational assistance

- Flyer of the training mentors
- Overview of <u>school-to-work transition</u> programmes
- E-book "How do I apply correctly?"

## Youth vocational assistance

Contact: Mr Christian Matheis (Coordination of youth vocational assistance and school social work)

- Paradeplatz 8, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/700228
- c.matheis@kreis-germersheim.de

Contact: Mr Ralph Schatull (Youth Employment Agency "Impuls")

- Tournuser Platz 2, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/53349
- r.schatull@kreis-germersheim.de

Contact: Mr Joachim Krautwurst (Youth Scout)

- **♀**Tournuser Platz 2, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/53455
- j.krautwurst@kreis-germersheim.de
- You can find further information on youth career assistance <a href="here">here</a>.

# **Vocational Information Centre (BIZ) Landau**

The Job Information Centre at the Federal Employment Agency has everything you need to choose a course of study or a career. It can also help you find a job.





During opening hours, you can obtain information there on your own - without an appointment.

In the careers information centre (BiZ) of the Landau Employment Agency, you will find information on various topics. The topic islands are equipped with a total of 35 modern internet workstations. Here you can search for job vacancies or suitable further training programmes with or without assistance.

- Johannes-Kopp-Straße 2, 76829 Landau in der Pfalz
- 06341/958222
- landau.biz@arbeitsagentur.de
- Information from the Employment Agency on school, training and studying
- Vocational Information Centre (BIZ) Landau
- · You can find more information about the employment agency here

# Pathways to training

# Do you have a school-leaving qualification and don't yet know which profession suits you?

Then the team at VFBB e.V. can help you. The service is aimed at people of all ages who need support and counselling when it comes to career orientation or finding an apprenticeship.

The VFBB advises and helps with

- Assessment of competences
- coaching
- · Preparation of professional application documents
- · Training for job interviews
- · Company trials
- · Formalities
- · Accompaniment to the training company
- Feedback discussion with applicants and employers

The VFBB provides targeted support when entering the world of work. Together with those seeking training and the companies, they decide which path they want to take:

- 1. directly to a training place (including part-time training)
- 2. via an introductory qualification programme. This gives you up to 12 months to prepare for a subsequent apprenticeship. You have the opportunity to try out your skills in practice directly in the company

#### What school-leaving qualification do you need for counselling at the VFBB?

You need to have a secondary school leaving certificate or a foreign school-leaving qualification. If you are motivated to do an apprenticeship, you are welcome to contact the





VFBB.

#### When does the programme start?

There is no deadline for participation. You can start all year round. The length of the programme depends on your needs.

#### Contact the

#### VFBB e.V.

An Fronte Diez 2, 76726 Germersheim

Michelle Hoppe

**\**07274/7067000

@michelle.hoppe@vfbb-speyer.net

Xenia Wilhelm

**\**07274/7067007

@xenia.wilhelm@vfbb-speyer.net

**€VFBB** e.V.

Click here for the flyer: Factsheet Paths to Training24.pdf

Check-U - The exploration tool for training and studies

# Vocational training and retraining

# **Professional development**

Some people want to learn more in their profession. Or they have learnt a profession but would now like to try something new. They can then undertake further vocational training. There are two types of continuing vocational training for employed and unemployed people:

- in-company further training provided by the employer (external or internal courses, training programmes, conferences and much more)
- · external continuing vocational training

# Who pays for further training?

It is possible to receive financial assistance for these types of further training:

- 1. On-the-job training can be paid for by the employer. Together, you can consider how the costs of further training can be financed.
- 2. The following funding options are available for further training outside the company:
- Aufstiegs-BaföG
- Advancement grant





- Further training grant
- education loan
- Recognition grant
- Further information on both options for further training and funding can be found here.

# Retraining

There are various forms of retraining:

- School-based retraining: here, the training or further training takes place exclusively at
  a vocational school or vocational college. Various internships give you an insight into the
  company.
- Dual retraining (company-based): here there is a practical part (in the training company) and a theoretical part (in the vocational school). Just like a traditional apprenticeship. The retrainees receive a fixed training salary
- 3. **Inter-company retraining:** Private training providers take over the practical lessons, often also the theoretical part of the vocational school. In some cases, work placements are also required. This is the most expensive form of retraining. It is therefore normally paid for by the Federal Employment Agency or another funding organisation.

**Part-time retraining** is also possible. In this case, the weekly working hours are reduced by a quarter or more. However, you attend the vocational school full-time. This model is primarily intended for parents who need to combine a career change with childcare.

You can find more information here:

- Career bible
- Federal Employment Agency

# Job centre

# Are you looking for further vocational training? Or do you want to retrain?

Then you can contact the job centre in the district of Germersheim. The job centre offers its customers the opportunity to undertake further vocational training. Retraining is also possible.

For example, you can catch up on your secondary school leaving certificate through the job centre. Or acquire specialised knowledge for your profession. If you want to switch to another profession in order to get back into work after a break, the job centre can also advise you here.

# **Germersheim Job Centre**

- Waldstr. 13, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/70110
- jobcenter-germersheim@jobcenter-ge.de





Note: For data protection reasons, enquiries by email cannot be answered by email. Please use the online mailbox service for enquiries at www.jobcenter.digital

#### Do you have a quick enquiry and just want to collect or drop something off?

Then come to the opening hours for short requests

Monday to Friday: 8:00 - 12:30

⊚You can always contact us by phone: Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday: 14:00 - 16:00

On Tuesdays and Thursdays you cannot reach the office that processes the benefits.

# **Kandel Job Centre**

- Saarstr. 93, 76870 Kandel
- 07274/70110
- jobcenter-germersheim@jobcenter-ge.de

Note: For data protection reasons, enquiries by email cannot be answered by email. Please use the online mailbox service for enquiries at

- www.jobcenter.digital
- Availability by telephone:

# Do you have a quick enquiry and just want to pick something up or drop something off?

Then come to the opening hours for short requests

Monday to Friday: 8:00 - 12:00

You can always contact us by telephone:

Monday to Friday: 8:00 - 12:30 Monday to Thursday: 14:00 - 16:00

On Tuesdays and Thursdays you will not be able to reach the office that processes the benefits.

Further information can be found here.

# CJD

# Are you at the beginning of a new phase in your life and want to reorient yourself professionally?

Then the CJD can provide you with professional and independent advice. The counselling is free of charge. The CJD will help you with the various forms of further training.





The CJD's retraining and further education programmes are based on a combination of digital and face-to-face learning. The programme is aimed at various people:

- · who were no longer able to work for health reasons
- who were on family leave
- who were unemployed

and who now want to return to work.

# CJD Maximiliansau - further education counselling

- Rheinstraße 1, 76744 Wörth
- 07271/9470

Fax: 07271/947-240

- weiterbildungsberatung-rpn@cjd.de
- Counselling hours

Monday to Friday, 08:00 - 12:00h

Thursday, 08:00 - 16:00h

Information appointments, every Tuesday 14:00h (House 3, ground floor)

Click here for the retraining and further education programmes.

# **IBB** - Continue with education

#### **ProfeS GmbH**

An Fronte Diez 2, 76726 Germersheim

Customer centre

- 0800/7050000
- kundencenter@ibb.com
- Opening hours of the location:

Monday to Friday, 08:00 - 16:00h

Click here for the homepage.

#### **Germersheim District Adult Education Centre**

Would you like to learn something new? Or deepen your knowledge?





Then come to the Germersheim District Adult Education Centre (KVHS). The KVHS is a public institution of the Germersheim district administration. It is independent of politics and religion.

In addition to the KVHS location in Germersheim, there are also ten branch offices. They offer a comprehensive range of educational programmes. And for the entire population.

#### **KVHS Germersheim**

Contact: Mrs Barbara Sachse

- Ritter-von-Schmauß-Str., corner of Paradeplatz, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/53334
- vhs@kreis-germersheim.de
- Further information can be found here.

#### Assistance during training (abH)

# Do you have difficulties or problems with your training?

Some people have difficulties in their training. But there is a way to get help. This is what the **training support** programme **(abh)** is for. The training-related assistance provides support for school-related problems during training. The job centre or employment agency can help.

#### How does the training support programme (abh) work?

During training, support is provided by a training organisation. The training provider writes a personalised support plan. This plan includes, for example, extra tuition in German and other subjects. It is also possible to receive support in preparing for exams. If you have problems with your training company, you can also get help with this.

The training support programme is free of charge for trainees.

You can find more information on training-related assistance (abH) here.

# Supportive financing - vocational training allowance (BAB)

Sometimes the money paid during training is not enough. If this is the case, you can submit an application to the employment agency or job centre. This support is called **Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe** (BAB).

#### What do I need to receive BAB?

Information on the requirements for BAB can be found on the <u>website of the Federal</u> <u>Employment Agency</u> at .

#### **Basic vocational qualification**





There are also other ways to get help before or during training or a programme. This is called **basic vocational qualification**. In Germersheim, ProfeS GmbH offers such basic vocational qualification programmes.

## What do I need to take part in a basic vocational qualification programme?

An education voucher from the employment agency or job centre. With this voucher, the course is free of charge. It is also important that you have at least an A2 language level. Then you can take part.

#### What does the course do?

This course teaches you the basics. They should help you to successfully pass a vocational and/or training programme. The aim is for fewer people to drop out of their programme or training.

The contents include

- · Learning to learn,
- · Reading and writing training,
- · basic arithmetic,
- · information and communication technology,
- · application and graduate management.

Click here for the services offered by <u>ProfeS Gesellschaft für Kommunikation und Bildung</u> mbH.

#### **Studies**

### **General information**

#### Study in Germany

#### Would you like to study in Germany?

If you need to study in Germany, you need a certain school-leaving qualification. This qualification is called Abitur or Fachhochschulreife. In order to

this qualification, you must attend a grammar school.

## Is studying in Germany expensive?

Education in Germany is one of the best in the world. And yet it costs less than in many other countries.

In most countries, you don't have to pay any tuition fees at all. But you do have to pay a semester fee. This varies from university to university. In most cases, the fee is between 100.00 and 350.00 euros. The Semesterbreitag allows you to use buses and trains at your place of study free of charge.





# Missing qualifications

#### Don't have a German Abitur?

Then it is sometimes possible to study with a school-leaving certificate from your home country. However, this must first be checked.

You will also need proof of good German language skills (language level C1). For example, TestDaF, DSH or tel Deutsch C1 Hochschule. Some universities also offer preparatory semesters. You can learn German there. You can obtain information about this directly from the universities. Most universities have counselling services.

- The guidelines "Garantiefonds Hochschule" support late repatriates, refugees and immigrants on their way to a university entrance qualification and into higher education.
- You can find more information on the educational counselling service "Garantiefonds Hochschule" at here.

Further information on the topic of recognition can be found

- here in our app
- Information portal @"Recognition in Germany"

#### You cannot study directly in Germany with your school-leaving qualification?

Then you may have the option of attending university through a preparatory course (Studienkolleg). The preparatory college prepares foreign applicants specifically for a degree programme. This can be at a university or a university of applied sciences in Germany.

Further information

- Preparatory college
- <u>Olnformation from the Deutsches Studentenwerk on the general conditions for international students.</u>
- The careers information centre of the Federal Employment Agency. Here you can find information about the content, procedure and entry requirements for a specific training or study programme.

# Types of universities

#### Which universities are there in Germany?

There are many different degree programmes. And there are different types of universities. There are state and private universities. Private universities are not necessarily better. However, you often have to pay high tuition fees there.

In Germany, there are universities in these categories:

• Universities (orientated towards science)





- Universities of Applied Sciences (practice-orientated)
- Dual universities (very practice-orientated)
- Colleges of art, film and music (for artistic subjects)

These websites can help:

- University Compass (all degree programmes and universities in Germany)
- Study in Germany (information for refugees)
- Employment Agency Study Orientation
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD all degree programmes in Germany)
- Overview of the types of higher education institutions
- Check-U Exploration tool for training and study programmes

# **Dual study programme**

On a dual study programme, you work and study at the same time. This is a speciality in Germany. You learn theory at the university and gain practical experience in the company at the same time.

Some models also offer the option of obtaining a Bachelor's degree and completing vocational training at the same time.

You can already earn money during the dual study programme. The company where you learn the practical skills pays you a salary.

Guide to dual study programmes

University compass

# Studying at a university of cooperative education (BA)

Universities of Cooperative Education (BA) are educational institutions that exclusively offer dual study programmes. Training and study programmes are very closely interlinked there. Universities of cooperative education are also known as dual universities.

Vocational academies can also be distinguished from universities of applied sciences.

#### But how does a BA differ from a university of applied sciences?

At a university of applied sciences, what you learn is also related to practice. **BUT** students can only apply everything they learn in internships.

In contrast, at a BA or dual university, the periods of study and work are always the same length. Therefore, the theoretical part at the BA and the practical part at the company alternate every three months.

In order to start a degree programme, applicants must find a company with which they can sign a training contract. Half of the training then takes place in this company. The other half of the training takes place at the university of cooperative education.





#### Funding and scholarship

Are you a student? You can't afford to live during your studies? Then you can get financial support in Germany.

#### **BAföG**

There is the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG for short). You must submit an application. Then you can get money. This money covers your daily expenses.

The money is paid monthly. At best, you will receive the money for the duration of your studies. The monthly amount of BAföG can be up to €935. Half of the money must be paid back after your studies. You will receive detailed information on this.

The information on BAföG changes regularly. You can view this information via the following link

- BAföG website all information at a glance

# **Scholarship**

You can also apply for a scholarship. As a rule, you do not have to pay back a scholarship. There are certain requirements. You need good grades. And you must be involved in voluntary work. How much money do you receive as a scholarship? The amount is often calculated in the same way as the BAföG rate. In addition, there is a so-called "book allowance". This is a monthly payment of up to €300.

Certain organisations award the scholarships. They are often referred to as "Begabtenförderungswerke". The following organisations offer programmes specifically for refugees. Would you like to apply? The rules can be found on the websites. There you will also find information on what you need to be able to do.

- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Scholarships for Refugees
- Böckler-Aktion Bildung of the Hans Böckler Foundation
- SKonrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Scholarships for Refugees
- Villigst Our scholarship for refugees
- Bread for the World Programme for Refugees (for women only)

The Otto Benecke Foundation offers the Guarantee Fund. All young, newly arrived migrants can apply here. You will be supported if you want to obtain a higher education entrance qualification in Germany, prepare for a university degree and pursue an academic career.

Otto Benecke Foundation in Bonn - University Guarantee Fund

There is also the Germany Scholarship. This provides €300 per month. The Germany Scholarships are awarded by the respective universities.





# Germany Scholarship: Become a scholarship holder

Further information can be found on the website of the Higher Education Campaign for Refugees and in the database of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Some universities offer scholarships for international students. Have a look at the university's website. Or contact the university directly.

#### Language

# Language levels and certificates

# **Learning German**

In order to integrate successfully in Germany, it is important to learn the German language. The German language is also very important for starting an apprenticeship or working. Only if you can communicate can you socialise and get to know people.

You can learn the language in a language course. Language courses are categorised into different levels - from beginner to advanced.

There are six levels for language courses: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2.

#### What do the six levels mean in detail?

# A1: Beginner

- You can understand and use simple words and sentences.
- You can introduce yourself and others.
- You can ask questions about a person.
- · You can answer questions.
- A person speaks slowly and clearly. You can converse with them.

# A2: Basic knowledge

- You can understand sentences and frequently used words.
- You can communicate in simple, everyday situations.
- You can describe your background, education and environment.

# **B1:** Advanced use of language

- · You can understand a lot.
- You can say something about familiar topics and personal interests.
- You can talk about experiences and events, dreams, hopes and goals.
- You can give brief reasons or explanations for plans and opinions.

# **B2: Independent use of language**





- You can understand the most important content of complex texts on concrete and abstract topics.
- You can also understand specialised discussions in your field of specialisation.
- You can communicate fluently and spontaneously.
- You can justify a point of view on a topical issue with advantages and disadvantages.

# C1: Specialised language skills

- You can understand a lot of demanding, longer texts.
- You also understand meanings that are not explicitly stated
- You can express yourself clearly, in a structured and detailed manner on complex issues.

# C2: (near) native speaker level

- You can understand practically everything you read or hear with ease.
- You can summarise information from different written and oral sources.
- You can give reasons and explanations in a coherent presentation.
- You can express yourself spontaneously, very fluently, precisely and with nuance.

#### Would you like to take a language course?

Language courses are offered by various organisations. You can find the most important contacts and addresses here.

## **Language Courses**

#### Initial orientation courses

Courses in which you learn your first words in German are called "initial orientation courses". These courses teach the first steps in the German language. They also provide initial information about life in Germany. The courses are intended to provide initial practical help. And they make it easier to find your way in everyday life. A course has 300 teaching units. Each lesson lasts 45 minutes.

The course modules consist of topics such as:

- "Health/medical care",
- "Work",
- "Kindergarten/school",
- · "Housing",
- "Local orientation / transport / mobility".

Participants should learn how to find their way in everyday life as quickly as possible. Various values should also be taught during the initial orientation courses.

#### Who can attend an initial orientation course?





Initial orientation courses are primarily intended for asylum seekers with unclear prospects of remaining in Germany.

However, if there are free places on the course, recognised asylum seekers with good prospects of staying may also attend. These courses are not intended for people who are required to attend school or vocational school.

It is possible to switch from an initial orientation course to an integration course as soon as participants are granted access. The people on the courses have very different levels of previous education. Illiterate people can attend the courses just as easily as university graduates. Initial orientation courses are free of charge.

#### What language is spoken on the course?

German is spoken on the course. Interpreters are not on the course.

#### Are you looking for a suitable course?

The counselling centres for migration and asylum or the social counselling centres can help.

Click here for the advice centres.

# Integration courses

#### What do I learn in an integration course?

In the general integration course, participants learn German up to language level B1. This involves 600 lessons. There are also 100 additional lessons. These additional lessons provide an insight into the culture, politics and social traditions in Germany.

At the end of the integration course, participants have to take two exams: "German Test for Immigrants" (DTZ) and "Living in Germany" (LiD).

#### Are there different integration courses?

There are also special forms of integration courses. These include, for example, the youth integration course. It lasts 900 lessons. The courses can therefore have more or fewer teaching units.

#### How much does an integration course cost?

Integration courses are free of charge for some groups. This applies to refugees and other target groups who receive social benefits.

#### What do you need to take part in an integration course?

The job centre, the social welfare office or the immigration office can oblige people to take part in an integration course.

#### You are not obliged to attend a course but would like to?

If you would like to attend an integration course voluntarily, you can apply to the BAMF. If you need help with the application, the asylum advice centres and migration advice centres can support you. They can also advise you on choosing an integration course provider.





- · Click here for the asylum and migration advice centres
- Application for admission to an integration course BAMF
- A list of authorised integration course providers in the district of Germersheim can be found at here.
- An overview of the integration courses on offer in the district can also be found on the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
- General information from the BaMF on language courses can be found in the BaMF-Navi

# Job-related language courses

# **Vocational language courses**

Sometimes, after attending an integration course, your language skills are not yet sufficient for your job. Then there is the opportunity to further improve your German language skills. Job-related German courses help with this. The courses are called DeuFöV. Anyone who wants to can attend them. This is possible

- · during your job
- · during training
- · during a vocational qualification programme
- · or as preparation for starting a career in Germany.

The basic modules of the DeuFöV courses aim to lead to language level C1. There are two courses with 400 teaching units each. Each of these courses concludes with a certificate examination. In addition to the basic courses, there are various specialised courses with different focuses.

An authorisation or obligation is required to take part in such a German course. These are issued either by the job centre or the employment agency. They can also be applied for from the BAMF.

A language level of at least B1 is a prerequisite for participation.

Further information on the DeuFöV courses can be found <u>at here</u>.

# LUNES APP - job-related language support via app (free of charge)

Trainees (apprentices) have to learn a lot of new job-specific vocabulary throughout their training. Regulations and safety instructions must also be easily understood.

Many people with a migration background have great difficulties here because they do not understand the language very well.

The LUNES app from Tür an Tür - Digitalfabrik gGmbH specifically helps trainees to learn the technical language that is important for their job.

The app is clearly organised into different areas, professions and modules. You can learn individual words and see matching photos. You can also listen to audio files.

The app thus offers:





- Provide vocabulary related to the industry or profession
- · Discover different professions, which are continuously expanded
- · For people with German as a second or foreign language at school and at work
- · Realisation together with schools, companies and integration stakeholders in Germany

The LUNES app can be downloaded **free of charge** for o <u>iOS</u> and o <u>Android</u>. It only stores technically necessary data.

Click here to go to the homepage

# Language courses

In order to live and work well in Germany, it is important that you also speak the language well. To learn German, you can take a language course. There are many different organisations that offer language courses. You can choose the programme that suits you best.

# Do you want to do a language course but don't know where?

There is an <u>overview</u> at ②. The Ministry for Family Affairs, Women, Culture and Integration has compiled a list of all current language courses. You can use the language course finder to find the right language course for you.

The state of Rhineland-Palatinate subsidises many language courses. These are called state courses. You can find more information on the state government's website Landeskurse: Sprachziel Deutsch.

# Would you like to do an integration course? Or have you been required to take an integration course?

Then you can search for a course on the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). On this page you will find all courses sorted by location: Integration courses.

#### **District Adult Education Centre (KVHS)**

The Germersheim District Adult Education Centre offers many other courses in addition to language courses.

# Do you want to learn something new? Or do you want to improve your skills and socialise with people?

Then come to the district adult education centre. The Germersheim District Adult Education Centre has a total of ten branches throughout the district.

The district adult education centre offers courses in many areas.

These include

- Society,
- profession,
- languages,





- · health,
- culture
- and other specialised basic education courses.
- Ritter-von-Schmauß-Straße (side entrance to the vocational school), 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/53319
- vhs@kreis-germersheim.de
- Click here for the language course programme



# **CJD Maximiliansau**

Contact person: Mrs Mariann Gerhardt

- Rheinstraße 1, 76744 Wörth
- 07271/9470
- sprachkurse-maximliansau@cjd.de
- Click here for the CJD Maximiliansau



# Internationaler Bund (IB) Germersheim

Contact persons: Mrs Marina Halilovic / Mrs Helene Mohr

- August-Keiler-Str. 29, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/94 99728
- integrationskurse-germersheim@ib.de
- Click here to go to IB Germersheim





#### **ProfeS GmbH**

- Rudolf-von Habsburg-Str. 2, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/949930
- info@profes-gmbh.de
- Click here to go to ProfeS GmbH

#### **SCAFLEM Institute**

Contact person: Mrs Alexandra Martín Gómez

- Marktstraße 4, 76726 Germersheim
- 0157/78389415
- info@scaflem-insitute.com
- Click here for the **SCAFLEM Institute**

Click here for an overview of the language courses on offer in the Germersheim district:

202403 language courses&counsellingDistrictGER.pdf

#### Learn German online

It is not always possible to take part in a local German course. Often the course times do not fit in with their own everyday life with work and/or family. Caring for children during course times is also often a problem.

An online course can help here. These courses allow you to learn from home. There are many free offers for learning German. This also allows adult beginners to practise and improve their reading and writing skills.

The courses are also good for preparing for exams.

#### What do I need to take part in a course?

For most courses, you will need a computer with speakers or a smartphone. And an internet connection.

### What free courses are available?

The VHS learning portal offers free digital learning programmes. The courses are available for German as a second language, literacy and basic education.





# VHS learning portal

The special feature: the German courses are approved by the BAMF as digital textbooks for integration courses. All interested parties have free access. You can prepare specifically for the exams.

- VHS learning portal
- ABC German courses
- A1 German course
- A2 German course
- B1 German course
- B1 German course for work

# Selection of other free web offers and apps

- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- Goethe Institute
- German Academy
- Deutsche Welle
- BAMF Digital German learning programmes with labour market orientation (A1 to B2) in Germersheim

# **Alphabetisation**

With the free alphabetisation app Serlo ABC, learners can learn the Latin alphabet. They can learn independently, intuitively and in a personalised way.

Serlo ABC

# Vocabulary trainer

There are many free media available to practise German: from apps with learning materials, videos, podcasts and games to social media and community offerings.

Goethe Institut Deutschtrainer A1 app

The vocabulary trainer from PONS is also available as an app. This sophisticated learning concept offers varied exercises in over 20 languages.

PONS vocabulary trainer

#### **Further links**

• Information from the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for asylum seekers on learning German





• Further education portal of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate

# Language mediation and communication, interpreting

# Interpreters and interpreting services

If someone is new to Germany and does not yet speak the language well, they sometimes need help. It can help to have someone with you who can translate at appointments with the authorities or others. These people are called interpreters. They can help and translate at appointments. This can be at various appointments. At appointments:

- · with the immigration office
- · with the social welfare office
- with the school
- · at doctor's appointments
- at parents' evenings at school
- · or at kindergarten

You can contact various organisations to find a suitable interpreter. The asylum advice centres or interpreter placement centres can help. They help to find suitable people who can translate. If possible, they will accompany those seeking advice to their appointment. The interpreters treat all concerns confidentially. They do not tell others what was discussed in a conversation. It is important to know that interpreters do not provide professional advice, legal advice or legal representation.

#### **DOOR**

## What is the DOOR project?

The DOOR project is run by students from Germersheim University and qualified volunteers. They interpret in the social field. Among other things, they provide support during visits to the doctor, contact with midwives or with the authorities. However, this does not include court proceedings, police hearings or asylum procedures.

#### What languages does DOOR offer?

DOOR covers most languages. If you need a translation in another language, you can ask DOOR.

#### What does it cost to use DOOR?

Important: Please note that the DOOR service will **no longer be free of charge** from 1 January 2025!

If you want to use a volunteer interpreter, the first hour (or part thereof) will cost €20.00. From the second hour onwards, you will have to pay €10.00 (per 30 minutes or part thereof). You must also pay the travelling costs. Here we charge €0.28 per kilometre. Or a bus or train ticket will be charged.





#### What does DOOR offer?

- · Translations directly on site
- Translations by video
- · Translations over the phone

# Would you like to make an enquiry?

From January 2025, DOOR will be using mediation software for this purpose. You can use it to submit requests for interpreting assignments. As a client, you can also manage your data. • You can find information on the registration process <a href="https://example.com/heres/beauty-september-10">here</a>

# Arbeit und Leben gGgmbH

Contact person: Dr Lisa Baum

♥ Hintere Bleiche 34, 55116 Mainz

**└**06131/1408626 or **└** 0176/60278942

@l.baum@arbeit-und-leben.de

@anfrage@arbeit-und-leben.de

Click here for the homepage

Here you can find information about the language mediator project DOOR (interpreting in social spaces):

- Pinfo sheet Arabic
- Sinfo sheet English
- SInfo sheet Farsi
- Info sheet Kurdish
- SInfo sheet Russian
- SInfo sheet Somali
- Pinfo sheet Tigrinya
- Sinfo sheet Turkish
- Pinfo sheet Ukrainian

#### Translation of documents

Official documents (e.g. certificates, marriage or birth certificates) may **only be translated by state-certified translators** in Germany. These translations can be expensive. You





should therefore check carefully beforehand whether a certified translation is really needed.

There are various free online services for a rough translation. These are, for example

- Google Translate
- Reverso translator
- deepL translator

# Become an interpreter yourself

Many people who have recently arrived in Germany and do not yet speak German very well need help. English is usually spoken in refugee accommodation centres, authorities and institutions. Nevertheless, many of them need support for their conversations. People who have lived here for some time and speak several languages can help their compatriots. They can translate or mediate.

# Communication aids on the subject of health

If you need to see a doctor, you can find <u>illustrated charts and translation aids</u> at . This can help doctors during consultations and when explaining the diagnosis.

# Pictograms as a communication aid - understanding each other with the help of pictures

Pictures, so-called pictograms, can also help in a conversation. You can find lots of pictograms for communication on various topics on the Internet.

#### Work / Employment

# Job search

#### Are you looking for a job?

Then there are various ways to find a job. Many companies look for employees in newspapers. Or they publish their vacancies on the Internet. This can be on their own websites or in search portals. It is also possible to network via social media to find vacancies.

In addition to the job centre, the employment agency can also help with the search.

If you are interested in a company but it has not advertised any vacancies, you can still apply. This is called a speculative application. It is best to call the company beforehand or drop by. You can then ask whether you can send them your application documents.

So there are many different ways to find a job:

• Job exchange of the Federal Employment Agency, the IHK and HWK





- Search portals on the internet, e.g. also specifically for new immigrants
- · Company websites
- · Career information fairs
- Daily and weekly newspapers ( Die Rheinpfalz)
- Social media ( LinkedIn, Xing)
- Ask your circle of acquaintances
- Ask the companies personally or call / unsolicited application
- · Social counselling/ integration management
- · Job coaches
- Help with finding work is provided by the job centre or careers advice service at the employment agency
- Job centre, for recipients of assistance

# Start2Connect: Support for starting a career

Start2Connect helps migrants and refugees to find work in Germany and develop their careers. Whether you are looking for a new job or want to learn new skills - Start2Connect offers help and accompanies you every step of the way.

# Career entry and further training

Start2Connect offers access to free further training and a large network of companies. This opens up new opportunities for professional success.

#### Start2Connect helps:

- Quick job search: support to find a suitable job quickly.
- Further training: Information and help with courses that create new career opportunities.
- · Network: Contacts to many companies looking for skilled workers.
- Community: Exchange and support in a group with similar experiences.

# Community and personal help

Starting out in a new country is often difficult. Start2Connect offers personal counselling and a strong community that supports the first steps and builds long-term perspectives.

More information can be found on the Start2Connect website: https://www.start2connect.com/ \_

#### Self-employment

#### What types of employment are there?

A distinction can be made between two types of employment for people who work. There are:

- · self-employed and
- · dependent employees





Self-employed people do not have an employer (boss). They only work for themselves. They can decide many things for themselves, for example how and when they work. However, they also have to provide for themselves financially. And they have to take out social security. They have to pay for many things themselves. Health insurance, pension insurance and unemployment insurance are very important. When it comes to health insurance, self-employed people have to decide whether they want to take out statutory or private insurance.

#### What types of self-employment are there?

There are two groups of people who are self-employed:

- · those who run their own business
- those who work on a freelance basis (as solo self-employed persons).

You can earn different amounts of money while self-employed. For some, the money is enough to live on. These people work completely independently. This is called main occupation.

Some people do not earn enough money from their self-employment. Or they want to work for a company for other reasons. In this case, they are still employed there and only work as a self-employed person on the side. This is known as a sideline.

You can find more information on forms of self-employment at the <u>Federal Agency for</u>
 Civic Education

#### Would you like to become self-employed?

If you want to become self-employed in Germany, you need a <u>residence permit</u>. It is also important that you can speak and write German well.

Your employment agency or job centre can help you take the first steps towards self-employment. The staff will provide you with information on setting up a business. They will name important contacts for further counselling. And they will tell you which benefits you can receive for support.

- Information on setting up a business from the Federal Employment Agency
- Information on setting up a business and start-up grants

#### The number of self-employed women is increasing

The proportion of women among all people who become self-employed is increasing. According to the microcensus, 34 per cent of all self-employed people in Germany in 2023 were women.

In 2023, 44 per cent of businesses were founded by women, according to the Start-up Monitor 2024 of the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) (2022: 37 per cent). On a long-term average, women account for 39 per cent of start-up activity.

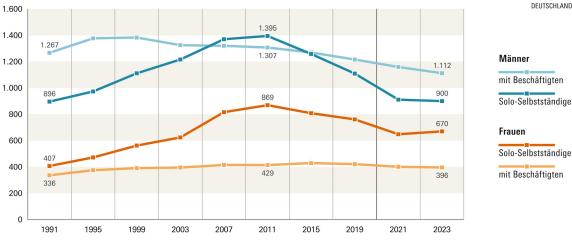
Nevertheless, women in Germany are still less likely to be self-employed than men. This applies both to the group of solo self-employed persons and to self-employed persons with employees (Figure 1).





Solo-Selbstständige und Selbstständige mit Beschäftigten in Deutschland (1991-2023), in Tausend





Datenquelle: Eurostat, Labor Force Survey (EU-LFS), eigene Berechnungen

Bearbeitung: WSI GenderDatenPortal 2025



Of all women who work, only 5.8 per cent were self-employed in Germany in 2023. Among working men, the proportion was 10 per cent, almost twice as high. This is according to the microcensus conducted by the Federal Statistical Office.

The federal government wants to make it easier for women to become self-employed. There are various support programmes and campaigns to this end.

#### Are you looking for support and further information?

You can find this at 🚱 Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

# **Pseudo-self-employment**

Sometimes a person presents themselves as a self-employed entrepreneur. But in reality they work for a specific employer. Then it only looks as if they are self-employed. This is called sham self-employment. The person is personally dependent on their employer. They can therefore be regarded as an employee.

#### Important: In Germany, bogus self-employment is prohibited!

In social security law, bogus self-employed persons are considered employees. Social security contributions must be paid for them. This means that the employer must pay into pension insurance, health insurance, long-term care insurance and unemployment insurance on their behalf. If they deliberately fail to do so, the employer may be obliged to do so. The employer must then pay the social security contributions in arrears.

The bogus self-employed person also has certain claims against their employer under labour law. These include, for example, protection against dismissal, public holiday pay, holiday entitlement, continued payment of wages in the event of illness and much more.





#### What are the key characteristics of bogus self-employment?

- · The client determines the working hours. This also includes holiday arrangements
- The contractor only works for one client.
- The client's employees regularly do the same work.
- The employer gives instructions to the contractor. And he decides over him.
- the contractor wears the client's work clothes, for example.

#### Who is particularly affected by bogus self-employment?

The sectors and job profiles include

- IT consultants
- · Drivers in the haulage industry and courier drivers
- Cleaners
- · Graphic designers and copywriters
- · Programmers
- Teachers
- · Honorary doctors
- Craftsmen

# Further information on bogus self-employment can be found here:

- Information from the IHK on the topic of "Avoiding bogus self-employment"
- The German Pension Insurance also provides information on the topic of bogus self-employment
- FG For founders

# Access to the labour market

#### **Employment Agency (AA)**

The Employment Agency is responsible for everything to do with employment. For example

- job search and job placement
- Admission to the labour market
- Help with career choice (career counselling) and training
- for questions about <u>further vocational training</u>; <u>Promotion by the Employment Agency</u>.
- for employer counselling ( Employer Service).

The employment agencies provide personalised advice on how and where people can work.





Anyone who is not yet supported by the employment agency or a job centre should register online at .

This requires personal details and information on qualifications and work experience. The data entered will be sent to the relevant employment agency.

**Note:** This information is also available in English.

# **Germersheim Employment Agency**



- Josef-Probst-Str. 24, 76726 Germersheim
- 06341/958901
- Germersheim@arbeitsagentur.de
- To the Germersheim Employment Agency

#### **Opening hours:**

Monday to Friday, 08:00 - 11:00h

# **Kandel Employment Agency**



- Saarstr. 93, 76870 Kandel
- 08004555500 (free of charge)

# **Opening hours:**

Monday to Thursday, 08:00 - 11:00h

Friday closed

## Note on postal items

Please only use the postal address for letters to the Employment Agency. This will ensure that the documents reach the responsible counsellor more quickly.

Employment Agency Landau, 76828 Landau





#### Job centre

## Don't have a job and need help?

Then you can contact the job centre. You will get support there.

- · It pays financial benefits,
- it helps you to look for work
- · it offers you measures to help you gain further qualifications
- it can, for example, enable you to take part in a language course, arrange career counselling or have certificates recognised.

Further information on counselling and placement in the labour market can be found here: Labour market access.

### Will you be supported by a volunteer who will accompany you to the job centre?

For data protection reasons, you must authorise this person. Only then can they receive information about your case. The power of attorney must be completed in full. Both persons must sign it.

# For asylum seekers: Steps after a positive decision

# Has your asylum application been recognised or have you been granted refugee protection?

Then you have received a positive decision (letter) from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). The asylum procedure is now complete. Now you have to do the following:

#### 1. attend a personal interview

- You must go to the Job Centre during opening hours.
- You will be registered as a customer there.
- Your background will be recorded.
- You arrange a counselling appointment with the benefits department
- You make an appointment with the job centre.
- · You are registered as a jobseeker.

# 2. benefits department

Important: You always need an appointment for a counselling session.

• You can apply for benefits at this appointment. Your benefits officer is responsible.

#### 3. job centre

Important: You always need an appointment for counselling.





You should have these documents with you at the appointment:

- The commitment to an integration course or confirmation of participation in an integration course.
- If possible, documents relating to school attendance, training, work certificates, recognition of qualifications obtained abroad...
- Reports on special skills (trade, language skills, etc.).
- You should consider in advance which area of work you are interested in.

#### Job centre

#### **Germersheim office**

- Waldstraße 13, 76726 Germersheim
- Job Centre

#### Kandel office

- Saarstraße 93, 76870 Kandel
- 07274/70110

Fax: 07274/7011-266 or -276

- jobcenter-germersheim@jobcenter-ge.de
- Telephone availability:

Monday to Friday, 08:00 - 12:30h

Monday to Wednesday, 14:00 - 16:00h

Thursday, 14:00 - 18:00h

It is not possible to call the benefits department on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

#### Do you have a residence permit or a tolerated stay permit?

Your asylum procedure has not yet been finalised and you therefore have a residence permit? Or your asylum application has been finally rejected and you therefore have a tolerated stay permit? Then the job centre is **not** responsible for you. You must take your questions to the <a href="Employment Agency">Employment Agency</a>. They will advise you on finding work.

#### Immigration of skilled labour

# **Specialists**

What is a specialist?





A skilled worker is a person who has a university degree. Or qualified training in a profession. The training must last at least two years. They also need a corresponding qualification from their home country.

# How can you check whether you are a skilled worker?

There are <u>recognition centres</u> in Germany for this purpose. They check whether the person can work in a German profession.

#### What help is available to work as a skilled worker

If you want to work as a skilled worker in Germany, you can get help. There is a law on the immigration of skilled workers. This law is for people who have vocational training. And also for skilled workers with a university degree, but without a degree.

#### How can I submit an application?

There are two ways to submit an application:

- 1. The skilled worker can submit the application themselves
- 2. The company submits the application on behalf of the skilled worker. They need a power of attorney for this. This authorises the company to submit the application on behalf of the skilled worker.

#### Are you a skilled worker and want to work?

It is important that you have an employment contract. You also need an offer for a specific job. Your qualification must also be recognised in Germany. You do not need a so-called "pre-employment check" by the Federal Employment Agency (BA for short). This means that the BA will not check whether there are applicants from Germany or the EU available for the specific job. However, the BA will still check the working conditions.

#### Where can a skilled worker work?

A skilled worker can work in the profession for which they have the right training. It is also possible for them to work in a similar profession.

# Different types of training for skilled workers

Skilled workers can have different types of training.

#### 1. professionals with academic training:

They can work in a profession for which they have a university degree. Or they can work in another qualified profession for which they do not need a university degree. However, the professional qualification must be similar. Helper and trainee occupations are therefore excluded. For the EU Blue Card, it must be a job that matches the professional qualification. This normally requires an academic qualification.

#### 2. skilled workers with vocational training:

They can work in all professions that they have learnt. There is no longer a restriction to **bottleneck occupations**. These are professions in which too few people are working and





which are urgently needed.

Skilled workers with qualified vocational training can enter Germany to look for work. They receive a residence permit for up to six months.

The prerequisite is:

- 1) The foreign qualification must have been recognised in Germany,
- 2) the person must be able to support themselves during their stay,
- 3) the person speaks sufficient German. They can speak enough German to practise their profession. In most cases, German language skills of at least level B1 are required.

#### Can you do trial work?

As long as the person is in Germany to look for a job, they can do trial work. They may work up to ten hours a week. This allows the employer and the foreign skilled worker to test whether they are a good match.

Skilled workers with a recognised academic qualification can also work on a trial basis. They may enter Germany for up to six months to look for a job.

### Residence for qualification measures

You can also stay in Germany to complete a qualification programme. To do this, you must first undergo a recognition procedure abroad. This procedure determines whether the person abroad has the same qualifications as in Germany (notice of recognition).

This visa also requires a corresponding knowledge of German. Usually at least language level A2.

With this residence permit, you may stay in Germany for 18 months. In certain cases, it can be extended by 6 months.

Once the 24 months have expired, the person can obtain a new residence permit. This time to do an apprenticeship, to study or to work.

#### Can a skilled worker from abroad obtain a settlement permit?

Foreign skilled workers can obtain a settlement permit after just four years in Germany.

# **Entry for training and study**

# Do you want to travel to Germany to look for a training place?

According to the new regulation, interested persons can also enter Germany to look for a training place.

The requirements for this are

1) German language skills at level B2





- 2) a qualification from a German school abroad or a school-leaving certificate that entitles the holder to enter higher education
- 4) they must be a maximum of 25 years old
- 5) you must be able to support yourself. You must not be dependent on financial assistance

#### **German language course to prepare for training:**

With a residence permit for qualified vocational training, you may attend a language course in preparation. This can also be a job-related language course.

#### **Extended transfer options for international students**

International students can change to other residence permits. This is also possible if they have not yet completed their studies. For example, they can start vocational training and obtain a residence permit for this.

With the Skilled Labour Immigration Act, there are even more opportunities to change. Under certain conditions, a person can already work as a skilled worker during their studies or training/further training.

However, this must first be checked by the BA. There is then a change to a residence permit for the "pursuit of qualified employment".

#### Settlement permit after training:

Anyone who has successfully completed training for a profession in Germany can obtain a settlement permit after just two years. The same rules apply to them as for university graduates.

- You can also find more information on the website

  Make it in Germany
- You can also take a quick test on your options there!

# Information for companies

#### Accelerated skilled labour procedure

Employers can apply for an accelerated procedure at the Immigration Office. To do this, you need the authorisation of the skilled worker for whom the application is being made. An agreement must be concluded between the company and the foreigners authority.

# What do I need for the agreement?

- · Authorisations and obligations of the employer,
- · Authorisations and obligations of the skilled worker,
- Authorisations and obligations of the authorities involved (foreigners authority, Federal Employment Agency, recognition offices, diplomatic mission abroad),
- · a description of the procedures. This must include all parties involved and all deadlines





#### What does the accelerated procedure cost?

411.00€ for the accelerated skilled labour procedure at the Foreigners' Registration Office

- + €75.00 visa fee
- + all other costs incurred (certified copies, translations).

## What does the foreigners authority do?

- It advises employers. It supports them in carrying out the procedure for recognising the foreign qualification of the skilled worker.
- It obtains the approval of the Federal Employment Agency. And it checks the legal requirements for issuing the permit. The recognition centres and the Federal Employment Agency must decide within certain deadlines.

# All requirements are met. What happens next?

If all requirements are met, the foreigners authority issues a so-called preliminary approval. It sends it to the employer for forwarding to the skilled worker.

The skilled worker then books an appointment at the diplomatic mission abroad. There they apply for the visa. The appointment must take place within three weeks. You must bring your advance approval (original) with you to this appointment. All other documents required for the visa must also be submitted.

The skilled worker has now submitted their complete application for a visa. It takes about another three weeks until a decision is made.

#### Who is eligible for the accelerated procedure?

The accelerated procedure for skilled workers also applies to the spouse of the skilled worker. And for unmarried minor children. It is important that the legal requirements for <u>family reunification</u> are met. And that an application has also been submitted for them.

# Central Immigration Office for Skilled Immigration Kaiserslautern

It is a service partner for employers and employees from non-EU countries. It provides support in all matters relating to the immigration of skilled labour. You can find all the necessary documents here **Checklist**.

#### Postal address

- Central Immigration Office for Skilled Labour Immigration Rhineland-Palatinate, 67653 Kaiserslautern
- fachkraefteeinwanderung.rlp@kaiserslautern.de
- Click here to go to the Central Immigration Office

#### **Further links:**





- Make it in Germany Information for companies
- iQ-Network RLP
- Welcome Centre RLP
- Single point of contact (EAP)
- Recognition of foreign professional qualifications
- anabin Information portal for foreign university degrees
- Federal Foreign Office: Working and living in Germany
- Hotline Working and Living in Germany, 03018151111

# **Employment law**

#### Labour contract

Anyone who starts work is given an employment contract. The employment contract regulates the most important conditions of an employment relationship such as

- · working hours
- holidays
- · amount of salary and
- notice periods

Both sides - employee and employer - must adhere to these agreements.

It is important not to sign the contract until you have understood everything. Once signed, the contract becomes legally binding.

An employment contract can also be established verbally or tacitly through conclusive behaviour!

Anyone who has already worked must be paid by the employer. Even if there is no written employment contract (yet)!

# Types of contract:

#### 1. open-ended employment contract

There is usually a probationary period of three or six months. During this period, either party can terminate the contract at short notice. This can be done within two weeks. At the end of the probationary period, a permanent employment relationship begins with longer protection against dismissal. The working hours are usually up to 40 hours per week.

# 2. fixed-term employment contract

The employment relationship ends at the agreed time without the need for notice of termination.





# You can find information on your rights when working in Germany here:

- IQ Network Integration through Qualification, Fair Integration
- The German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) also provides <u>information on labour</u> rights for skilled workers from third countries and for refugees

### Unemployment and social benefits

# Entitlement to unemployment benefit I (ALG I) from the Employment Agency

In principle, everyone in Germany should provide for their own livelihood. The aim should be to have enough money to live on through work. However, if you don't have enough money to live on, you can get help from the German state. The state helps if you do not have enough money to live on. Or if you can only pay part of it yourself.

Anyone who loses their job can receive unemployment benefit I. However, the person must have been compulsorily or voluntarily insured in Germany for at least 12 months. And this must have been the case for the last 30 months. As a rule, you receive these periods of compulsory insurance because you worked during this time. Under certain circumstances, there are other requirements.

The <u>Federal Employment Agency</u> decides whether a person receives unemployment benefit.

#### What do you have to do to receive unemployment benefit I (ALG I)?

# 1. register as a jobseeker

- · if you have been made redundant from your job
- if you have been made redundant yourself. And if you do not have a new job in prospect
- or if you have a temporary job that is about to end

#### Do any of these points apply?

Then you must register as a jobseeker immediately. You must register at least 3 months before the end of your employment relationship.

The <u>Employment Agency</u> will help you to find a job. The employment agency will also advise you. Together you can see if you can get financial help.

There are different ways to register as a jobseeker:

- On site at the employment agency
- by telephone at <u>0800/4555500</u> (free of charge)
- Online at https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/





# 2. register as unemployed in person

Those affected must register as unemployed **in person** at their local <u>employment agency</u> on the first day without work at the latest. This is the prerequisite for receiving unemployment benefit.

# 3. Fill in the application for unemployment benefit

You can apply for unemployment benefit online. If you want to submit an application in writing, you can also collect the forms in person from the Employment Agency.

#### Do you want to register as unemployed?

You can find more information at 🚱 here.

# Entitlement to citizen's allowance at the job centre

In order to receive citizen's allowance, these conditions must be met:

- You are at least 15 years old and you have not yet reached the age limit for your pension.
- You live in Germany and have your centre of life here.
- · You can work at least 3 hours a day.
- You or members of your benefit community need help. The income of your benefit community is therefore below the minimum subsistence level. And you cannot finance your living expenses yourself.

Some people are unable to work due to a disability or illness. This means that they are not able to work. However, they can still receive citizen's allowance. For example, if they live with another person (community of need) who is able to work. And who has a right to benefits.

#### Do you want to make an application?

Then you can submit an application for Citizen's Allowance to your job centre.

If you apply for Citizen's Allowance, your job centre will need information from you. With this information, the job centre can check whether you meet the requirements for citizen's allowance. If the requirements are met, you are legally entitled to Citizen's Allowance. The job centre then calculates how much Citizen's Allowance you can receive.

For example, it plays a role whether you ...

- · have no or only a low income.
- have children or are a single parent.
- · live alone or with other people.

You can find out how to apply here.





Further information on the application, attachments and the decision can be found on the Application and decision page.

### Recognition of foreign educational qualifications

#### **Certificates**

Certificates are important in Germany. You need them for school, university or work. Some people only have certificates from abroad. These can be recognised in Germany. Some people do not have any certificates from their home country. In this case, they can try to have their experience tested. Professional experience and professional skills can sometimes be recognised through tests.

#### Would you like advice on having your qualifications recognised?

These centres offer advice and support:

- Central Service Centre for the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications
- Recognition counselling in Rhineland-Palatinate
- Recognition in Germany multilingual
- Recognition in Germany Finder
- Precognition portal of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- PIQ Network
- Pinformation portal for foreign educational qualifications

# IQ Recognition and Qualification Counselling Landau/Germersheim & Region ProfeS GmbH

- An Fronte Diez 2, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/949930
- Karl-Ziegler-Straße 4, 76829 Landau
- 06341/1414430

#### **Working in science**

# Would you like to study in Germany? Or work here as a scientist?

Then you may be able to have your certificates recognised in Germany. There are contact persons at the universities for this.

You can find more information here.

#### **Recognition of university degrees**

When do you need recognition?





For certain professions, you need to have your foreign university degree recognised in Germany. For other professions, there is the assessment of university degrees.

In Germany, a distinction is made between regulated professions and non-regulated professions.

There are certain legal requirements to be able to work in a regulated profession.

These are, for example, the following professions

- · Medical professions,
- · legal professions,
- · engineering professions
- · Teaching at state schools
- · professions in the public sector
- This also includes subjects that are a prerequisite for practising an academic and regulated profession.

#### Do you have a foreign university degree for a regulated profession?

Then you must apply for recognition in any case.

#### Which professions are considered regulated professions?

You can find out which professions are regulated in the Recognition Finder.

#### Non-regulated professions

There are also non-regulated professions. Here you can simply work as you please. There are no legal requirements for practising the profession. You therefore do not need to have any certificates recognised. You can apply directly to the labour market. Or you can become self-employed. Most professions in Germany are not regulated.

You have a foreign university degree and would like to work in Germany in a non-regulated profession...

# 1...and you already have a residence permit in Germany or come from the EU/EEA/Switzerland?

Then you can work in your profession without being recognised. You do not necessarily need an assessment of your university degree. However, an assessment can help when applying for a job.

#### 2...and you come from a third country?

Then the assessment of your higher education qualification is important. If your university degree is comparable to a German degree, you can apply for a visa. This will allow you to come to Germany. This visa applies to recognised skilled workers. You can use the visa to come to Germany to look for a job, for example. Or with a concrete offer of work. You may also be able to apply for an EU Blue Card. You can find out more at the entry here.

#### **Customised advice from Check-Work**





#### What does good counselling look like?

Good counselling is important to support migrants on their path to training or work. It is particularly important to know what experience they have. And where their strengths lie.

check.work helps with this. Professional experience and competences can be determined here. Check.work helps with a realistic assessment.

check.work consists of two parts:

- 1. Module 1: Practice: This is about the professional experience of people with a migration background. It is recorded here in simple, easy-to-understand words. This is made possible by comprehensible pictures. The programme is available in five different languages (German, English, French, Farsi and High Arabic).
- 2. Module 2: Potential: This is about career-related strengths and potential. These can be important for training in Germany, for example.

check.work facilitates the professional counselling process. At the same time, it can support the counselling process because it saves time.

The interactive online application is a project of the IHK Munich and Upper Bavaria. It was commissioned by the Bavarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BIHK). It is subsidised by the Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy.

Click here for the homepage.

Further information specifically on skilled labour immigration can be found in our app here.

#### Financial support

#### Do you have too little money to apply for recognition?

People who earn very little money are called low earners. However, a recognition procedure costs a lot of money. Low earners can submit an application. This allows them to receive a subsidy towards the costs. All costs incurred during the application process can be subsidised. This applies in particular to fees and translation costs. Each person can receive a maximum of €600.00 in assistance. They must submit an application for this.

**It is important to note that** you must first apply for financial support. And then the application for recognition. Only then can the costs be covered.

Recognition in Germany - Financial support

Information from the Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (f-bb) gGmbH

@anerkennungszuschuss@f-bb.de

#### Official certification of certificates

An official certification is a confirmation. It shows that a document is genuine. Public authorities often require notarisation. For example, you need it if you want to enrol at a university. All





copies of certificates must be officially certified.

You can obtain the notarisations from your local citizens' office.

# Children, youth, family and senior citizens

#### Pregnancy and birth

Pregnant women in Germany enjoy special protection. They are entitled to counselling, medical care and support with new purchases for the child. A gynaecologist carries out the check-ups. They also issue a maternity pass. The maternity pass identifies the pregnant woman as an expectant mother. It contains important information about the health of the mother and her child. The mother should always have the maternity pass with her in case of emergencies.

Asylum seekers must report the birth in advance to the accommodation service. They will check whether there is enough space for the child in the accommodation. She will also order a cot and a changing mat.

#### **Pregnancy counselling**

The **Caritas Centre Germersheim** offers concrete help. It provides support before, during and after pregnancy.

Caritas offers the following help:

- Counselling in all matters relating to pregnancy and birth.
- Counselling for a confidential birth (please state whether you would like anonymous counselling when contacting us)
- Development of possible solutions for psychosocial conflicts
- Counselling after a termination of pregnancy
- Grief counselling for the loss of a child through miscarriage or stillbirth
- Questions about examinations of the mother and child before birth (this is called prenatal diagnostics)
- · Questions about sexuality and family planning
- Arranging financial aid and benefits in kind (federal foundation, fund, etc.)
- Advice on financial benefits (e.g. child benefit, parental allowance, maintenance advance)
- · Counselling on material subsistence
- Information on legal issues (e.g. Maternity Protection Act)
- · Enforcement of legal claims and help in dealing with authorities
- Help in dealing with separation and partnership conflicts
- Socio-educational programmes, e.g. teaching units in schools, youth or company groups. Further information can be found here: Valuably enlightened

#### **Caritas Centre Germersheim**

Contact person: Tina Gutting





- 17er-Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/94910

#### Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 08:30 -12:30h,

Thursday 14:30 - 16:30h

#### The Pro Familia advice centre in Landau

provides information and advice on the following topics:

- Pregnancy
- Partnership
- sexuality
- · family planning
- Sex education
- Online counselling
- Pregnancy conflicts (including issuing a counselling certificate in accordance with §5 and 6 of the Pregnancy Conflict Act (SchKG))
- Social and family law
- Menopause
- Contraception
- · Sexual education

#### **Pro Familia**

- Xylanderstraße 21, 76829 Landau
- 06341/82424

Fax: 06341/348034

- landau@profamilia.de
- Telephone availability:

Monday to Friday, 10:00 - 12:00h,

Thursday, 16:00 - 18:00h

#### **Delivery and aftercare**

Pregnant women should be examined by a doctor. These are called gynaecologists. They can refer the pregnant woman to a maternity clinic. They can also advise the pregnant woman on finding a midwife for aftercare.





The early help team can also assist in the search for a midwife.

The birth certificate is issued by the maternity clinic.

#### **Confidential birth**

Some pregnant women want to keep their pregnancy and maternity a secret. There is a special offer for them. Women can opt for a confidential birth. Beforehand, it is important that they attend a psychosocial counselling session.

There is a law to expand support for pregnant women and to regulate confidential birth (since 2014). This law makes it possible to give birth in a protected setting under medical supervision. This can be either in a clinic or with a midwife. The law also guarantees mothers anonymity for 16 years, meaning that no one will find out about the birth.

# Help hotline "Pregnant women in distress"

For women who are suppressing or hiding their pregnancy

0800/4040020

Free of charge, barrier-free and available 24 hours a day. Counselling also available in foreign languages

Further information and anonymous counselling is also available online at <a href="https://www.geburt-vertraulich.de">www.geburt-vertraulich.de</a>

# Family midwife

A family midwife is available to pregnant women at the district youth welfare office.

Mrs Ulrike Beinhardt

**Q**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim

07274/53-1791

@Famhebamme.ger@web.de

#### **Germersheim Midwifery Centre**

Westheimer Street 5

67365 Schwegenheim

**\**06344/9579280

@info@hebammenzentrum-germersheim.de

Midwifery centre





#### Child welfare and child health network



Coordination: Mrs M. Kuntz

#### 07274 / 53-373

- m.kuntz@kreis-germersheim.de
- Further information about the network can be found here.

The health insurance covers the costs before, during and after the birth. These costs include

- · for necessary check-ups,
- delivery costs
- · care costs after the birth by a midwife
- The costs of necessary check-ups and vaccinations for children are also covered

#### **Initial equipment**

Pregnant asylum seekers and people in need of assistance have higher needs. Under certain conditions, they therefore receive a higher allowance to cover the costs. In addition, you can sometimes receive maternity clothing with your maternity pass. You must submit an application for this. From six weeks before the birth, you will also receive initial equipment for your child.

After the birth, you will receive a pram with your birth certificate. Four to six weeks after the birth, you will also receive baby clothes and other items for your child. These must be applied for at the relevant municipal / local authority.

#### Notification to the registry office

When a child is born, this must be reported to the registry office. In the case of asylum seekers, the accommodation management must also be informed. In the case of asylum seekers, the maternity clinic notifies the registry office of the birth of the child. The registry office issues a birth certificate for the child. This states when and where the child was born and its name. The





parents then receive the birth certificate for their child. The parents must collect the birth certificate from the registry office. To do this, they must bring their own ID, the birth certificate from the clinic and also their marriage certificate, if they have one.

It is important to keep the birth certificate for life. It serves as proof of identity.

#### Image-based support for health issues

The multilingual web portal ZANZU of the Federal Centre for Health Education is available in various languages, including Arabic, Farsi, Turkish, Romanian, Russian and English.

It serves as a concrete working and translation aid for daily counselling practice. Some of the information is provided in the native language. It offers a guide through the German health and counselling system. The web portal provides discreet and direct access to knowledge (for reading and listening).

The topics include: Health, contraception, body knowledge, pregnancy and birth and rights and laws in Germany.

#### Childcare

Before attending school, from about 1 year of age, children can attend a day care centre (Kita). Here, friendships can be made, the German language learned and new things discovered. Attending a day-care centre is a very important and good preparation for school. Childcare gives parents the opportunity, for example, to attend a German course, go to work or take care of important things.

Depending on the region, the Kita can be a crèche, a kindergarten or a day nursery. However, there are some differences between these childcare options.

- Day nursery (Kinderkrippe): Infants up to the age of three are cared for in this institution. Often they are integrated into day-care centres.
- Kindergarten: In kindergarten, children from three to seven years old are often only looked after in the morning. Some kindergartens also offer lunch.
- Children's day-care centres (Kindertagesstätte; Kita) In contrast to the kindergarten, the Kita offers all-day care. The children are looked after from morning until late afternoon.
- Afterschool programmes (Kinderhort): The Kinderhort is also called a Schulhort. Children aged 7 to 12 are cared for there after primary school. This includes lunch together, homework supervision and then playing with other children.
- Special needs kindergarten (Förderkindergarten): In the special needs kindergarten, children
  with special needs are cared for who cannot sufficiently or simply cannot be supported in the
  regular facilities. In addition to comprehensive educational support, the special needs
  kindergarten also offers therapeutic support and care.

<u>Here</u> you can find a complete overview of the day-care centres in the District of Germersheim.

#### Special needs kindergarten (Förderkindergarten)





A special needs kindergarten is a day care facility that is explicitly aimed at children with special needs. It is intended for children who cannot receive adequate support and care in a regular institution.

Children with physical, mental, social or learning disabilities or developmental delays are cared for in a special needs kindergarten. Even children with severe multiple disabilities have the opportunity to be cared for and supported.

The children are picked up from home and brought home again by an internal driving service i.d.R..

In the District of Germersheim there is the special needs kindergarten of the Lebenshilfe Germersheim. You can find more information here.

# Childcare for children aged 1 and over: "Kindertagespflege"

In Germany there are 2 official and state regulated options for child care: either with a day nanny or in a kindergarten/Kinderkrippe.

The care provided by a day nanny is called children's day care (Kindertagespflege).

In children's day care, parents have the opportunity to have their children looked after by a qualified childminder. The childminders offer this type of care in their private premises, e.g. their own home. Here, children are looked after in small groups of up to 5 children, which is particularly suitable for younger children.

In kindergarten, the groups are larger. Almost all children over the age of three go to a kindergarten.

#### What does a day at a day nanny's look like?

In the morning, the parents drop their children off at the day nanny's. Then, breakfast is eaten together. Afterwards, the day nanny plays and sings with the children.

She encourages the children to work on their language development, stimulates them to learn and takes them outside. The children learn important things, such as the rules of the road, and observe nature and the environment. They develop their skills while playing in the house.

They get to know the routines of everyday life. They eat with the day nanny and have a nap. The day nanny also changes the children's nappies. In the afternoon, the children are picked back up. The day nanny has the same tasks as a kindergarten.

#### How do you find a day nanny?

Day nannies are arranged by official agencies and authorities (Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt), specialist service). This also applies to the place in the kindergarten. All children in Germany have the right to education, a proper upbringing and care and are allowed to go to a day nanny or a day-care/kindergarten, even if the parents do not work.

#### How much does the care cost?





The amount of money parents have to pay to care for their children can vary somewhat from region to region. It depends on how much income the parents have. In Rhineland-Palatinate, childcare for children from the age of 2 is free of charge - regardless of whether the child attends a kindergarten or a Kinderkrippe.

Questions about this can be answered by the respective authorities ( Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt), specialist service) on site.

# Information on child day care in different languages

By the way: One of the most popular German children's television programmes with explanations on various things in Germany is also available in Arabic, Kurdish and Dari:



Die Sendung mit der Maus International

#### **Child protection**

#### Children's rights

#### Children's rights in Germany

The **United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child** has been in force in Germany since 1992. Since then, there have been discussions about explicitly enshrining children's rights in the Basic Law. With the coalition agreement for the 20th legislative period, the Federal Government is making another attempt to take this historic step.

#### The four basic principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are

- 1. Prohibition of discrimination: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child applies to all children and young people. It applies regardless of the gender, origin, religious affiliation, language, disabilities or political views of the child or their parents. No child may be discriminated against because of this. All children living in Germany must receive protection, support, education and participation. Regardless of where they come from and which religion or world view they adhere to. This is the prerequisite for successful integration.
- 2. Right to life and personal development: Every child has the right to grow up in a protected environment and to develop into an independent and socially competent personality. Children and young people should be supported in their development. They should be given the opportunity to actively participate in social life. A dignified life also includes protection from illness and violence.





- 3. **Priority of the best interests of the child:** The principle of the best interests of the child obliges courts, administrative authorities, public or private social welfare organisations and legislative bodies at federal, state and local level to consider the best interests of the child and the interests of children as a primary consideration in all decisions and measures.
- 4. **Right to participation:** Children and young people should be given the opportunity to be heard. They may express their concerns and complaints. They must be involved in state decisions that affect the child or young person. Their opinion must be taken into account according to their age and maturity.

These four basic principles guide the understanding and interpretation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Children's rights strengthen children and their families:** Strengthening children's rights should also strengthen the family and the right of parents to raise their children. Parents are the most important advocates for their children. This is also in line with the intentions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 5 stipulates that the duties, rights and obligations of parents must be respected, while Article 18 (1) guarantees the responsibility of parents for the best interests of the child.

Since 1 January 2001, the **right of children to a non-violent upbringing** has been enshrined in the German Civil Code (BGB). The new § 1631 BGB reads:

"Children have a right to a non-violent upbringing. Physical punishments, psychological injuries and other degrading measures are not permitted."

With this children's right, a clear guiding principle for upbringing has now been formulated. Violence as a means of upbringing is not justifiable, but violates the dignity of the child. This law thus clarifies what is permitted and what is not tolerated in the upbringing of children. The mistreatment of children and the sexual abuse of boys and girls also constitute criminal offences.

Of course, protection against violence against children in education also applies outside the parental home, for example as part of the educational mandate of day-care centres and schools. Here, children should learn how to deal with conflicts and how to overcome them without violence. This also includes strengthening the children's self-esteem. In this way, the kindergarten contributes to the prevention and defence against dangers that threaten children or that could emanate from them (primary prevention), above all through its playful educational activities, which do not create any pressure to perform or gain prestige.

Averting danger also includes sensitising the educational staff of day care centres and schools. Staff are enabled to recognise symptoms and other indications of child abuse, to correctly interpret corresponding signals and - in the event of sufficient suspicion - to react calmly and appropriately (for example by seeking professional advice from a kindergarten counsellor from the independent and public youth welfare organisations, a specialised counselling centre or the youth welfare office).

#### There are other children's rights. A few particularly important ones are

• Children are allowed to live with their family. Nobody may simply take a child's family away from them.





- But: If a child is not doing well at home, it needs a new family. This applies, for example, if
  the child is being beaten. Or if there is no adult to look after the child properly. The youth
  welfare office can help here.
- If things get particularly bad, for example if there is a war, no child is allowed to be there and certainly not to fight. Children must also not be judged for crimes. If a child has made a bad mistake, they must learn what was wrong with it. But they don't go to prison.
- If a child is unwell, they must be helped. No matter whether they are ill, alone or sad. Nobody is allowed to hurt a child.
- Children must be heard. If a child has something to say, it must not simply be ignored. Of
  course, nobody is always right, not even a child. But no one should be ignored, no matter
  how old they are.

#### Is child labour allowed in Germany?

In principle, child labour is prohibited in Germany, but exceptions are permitted in certain constellations. All persons up to the age of 14 are considered children. 15 to 18-year-olds are adolescents - if they are of school age, the same rules apply to them under labour law as to children. According to the Youth Labour Protection Act (JArbSchG), young people aged 15 and over may only be employed - albeit with precisely defined restrictions. From the age of 18, there are no longer any restrictions.

#### Help is available here

Children's rights have been around for quite a while. But despite this, some children are still in a bad situation. To change this, there are people and organisations that help children in need. Anyone who needs help, is afraid or simply doesn't know what to do and wants to talk can call here:

- Nummer-gegen-Kummer (for children and young people): \$\square\$ 116111
- Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk e.V.: \ 030/3086930
- The people on the phone will help you and won't tell anyone if you don't want them to.
- You can also ask other people for help, for example your family, carers, teachers or friends. You are not alone with your problems and it can help to talk about them.

#### **Further links:**

- Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk Children's rights in Germany
- Children's rights in the Basic Law Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- **BMFSFJ** Your children's rights

Services for child protection

# **Child protection**





#### What is child protection?

All children have the same rights. This is what the United Nations has written down and agreed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also states that children should grow up safe and healthy and be protected from danger and violence. Child protection is therefore about protecting children from any form of abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation. Every child has the right to grow up in a safe and loving environment.

#### Why is child protection important?

Child protection is important because children and young people are not yet as strong and independent as adults. They need our help in order to develop in a way that protects them from danger. When we work to protect children, we are committed to a good and safe childhood for girls and boys. At the same time, we give them the chance to realise their dreams.

# Who is committed to child protection?

There are various organisations in the district of Germersheim that are committed to child protection. If you have any questions or problems, or if you need help, you can contact these organisations:

#### The Youth Welfare Office

Every town and district in Germany has its own youth welfare office. The youth welfare office works with children, young people and families on behalf of the local authority.

Youth welfare offices plan, organise and manage the structures and services of child and youth welfare in the municipalities. They ensure child protection and make sure that all young people and their parents have access to their rights and the associated programmes and services.

There is also a crisis intervention service (KID) within the <u>social services</u> (ASD) at the youth welfare office. It provides counselling and support in the following areas

- Child protection
- · Cases in crisis, including parenting support
- · Proceedings before the family court
- in cases where there are indications that a child's welfare is at risk (§8a SGB VII) the work is carried out in cooperation with the ASD staff

#### How can you get in touch?

Germersheim District Administration - Department 21 - Youth Welfare

17er Street 1

76726 Germersheim

**Counselling telephone** 





#### **\**07274/53432

Opening hours:

Mon to Fri, 08:30 to 12:00h

Mon to Wed, 13:30 to 16:00h

Thu, 13:30 to 18:00h

Outside of these hours, please contact the police in Germersheim in an emergency:  $\bigcirc$  07274/9580 or Wörth:  $\bigcirc$  07271/92210

# The child protection service at the Caritas centre in Germersheim

The child protection service offers help when children are

- · are beaten or abused,
- · nobody looks after them,
- · someone wants to or does sexual things to them,
- · if they are in danger,

#### Do you suspect that children in your neighbourhood are at risk?

Then contact the child protection service. No matter whether you are a neighbour, educator, teacher, parent or relative. Children can also report themselves if they have questions or problems.

The child protection service offers educational and psychological help. It can also arrange legal or medical support.

- 07274/9491 134 or 07274/9491 135
- kinderschutzdienst.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de
- Online counselling for children and young people

# **Caritas Centre Germersheim**

- 17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/9491-0
- k inderschutzbund.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de

Jana Mohr

07274/9491134

@Jana.Mohr@caritas-speyer.de

Katharina Halicki





- 07274/9491135
- @Katharina.Halicki@caritas-speyer.de

Beatrice Wetzel

- 07274/9491135
- @Beatrice.Wetzel@caritas-speyer.de

Stefanie Horländer

- **\**07274/9491136
- @Stefanie.Horlaender@caritas-speyer.de

## The Child Protection Association, Germersheim District Association

The Germersheim Child Protection Association is an association. It is committed to realising the rights of children as set out in the German Basic Law. It implements the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Its aim is to realise a child- and youth-friendly society. It promotes the intellectual, psychological, social and physical development of children and young people. It protects them from marginalisation, discrimination and violence of any kind. It is committed to social justice. The Child Protection Association also pursues many other goals to protect children and young people.

The Germersheim Child Protection Association offers an extensive programme:

- SHIPPY family programme
- Griffbereit
- <u>SLearning mentor project</u> "no one must get lost"
- Children and youth hotline
- Accompanied contact
- Children's clothes shop
- @Germersheim reads aloud
- <u>Neighbourhood shop</u>
- Open play centre
- You can also find information on the individual programmes here.
- Flyer The Child Protection Association KV GER.pdf

#### The Germersheim District Association for Child Protection

- Waldstraße 5, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/8847
- info@kinderschutzbund-germersheim.de





#### Number against grief:

No matter what issue is bothering you, if you need support, you can turn to us.

Talking about it helps. Children, young people, parents and other carers can get free and anonymous advice from us.

Child and youth helpline: \$\scrip\$ 116 111

©Counselling hours:

Mon to Sat, 14:00 to 20:00h

Parents' helpline: \ 0800 - 111 0 550

New counselling hours: Mon to Fri, 9:00 to 17:00 and additionally Tue + Thu until 19:00

Online counselling for children and young people at www.nummergegenkummer.de

New chat counselling hours: Tue + Fri, 10:00 to 12:00h and Wed + Thurs, 15:00 to 17:00h

@Online counselling: counselling by email is still available around the clock

#### Financial aid for families - parental allowance and child benefit

## Family benefits

#### **Parental allowance**

#### Have you had a baby and want to stay at home with your child for a while after the birth?

Some parents work less after the birth of their child. Or they stay at home with their child for a certain period of time and don't work at all. Some also don't want to work as much. Or they can no longer work as much.

Then they can get money from the government. Parents who are separated can also receive parental allowance.

#### Who gets parental allowance?

All parents who have a settlement or residence permit in Germany can submit an application to the parental allowance office of the district administration.

You can find more information in German, English, Turkish and Russian at 🚱.







Click here to go to the parental allowance office of the Germersheim district administration.

#### **Child benefit**

As soon as you have a child, you can apply for child benefit.

#### Who receives child benefit?

All parents with a settlement or residence permit in Germany are entitled to child benefit.

#### Where can I apply for child benefit?

You must apply for child benefit yourself at the Federal Employment Agency. It pays child benefit for every child from birth until at least the age of 18.

You can find more information in German, English, Turkish and Russian at 🚱 here.

**<u>Click here</u>** to apply for child benefit

# **Child supplement**

#### Who receives the child supplement?

If there is not enough income for the whole family, parents can receive child supplement in addition to child benefit. You are entitled to child supplement if you fulfil certain requirements. Whether you receive child supplement depends on how much income and substantial assets you, your partner and your child have.

#### Would you like to apply for child supplement?

You must submit an application for child supplement to the family benefits office. You will receive the supplementary child allowance for 6 months. After that, you must reapply for the child supplement.

If something changes in your situation, for example if you receive more money than before, you must inform the family benefits office. The child supplement will then be recalculated.

#### When can you apply for child supplement?

You can submit an application if:

- · Your child still lives at home
- the child is under 25 years old and not married or in a registered civil partnership
- if you already receive child benefit (or a comparable benefit) for your child
- your family's gross income is at least 900 euros (for couples) or 600 euros (for single parents)
- if you would have enough money to support your family if, in addition to your income, you received child supplement and possibly housing benefit.

Further information and applications for child benefit and child supplement can also be found at Familienkasse





©Click here for information on the federal government's family portal on parental allowance and child benefit in various languages

#### Meeting and support

#### **General information**

Raising children is no easy task. It is therefore important for parents to seek advice and support at an early stage. This can be for general parenting issues, but also in difficult, stressful situations. The counselling centres in the district of Germersheim are there to help parents. With their services, they help to overcome specific problems.

There are <u>family counselling centres</u> in every municipality and in the towns of Germersheim and Wörth. The service is free of charge.



For young families with babies and toddlers, we recommend the <u>early help guide</u> and the <u>early help team</u>.



# The youth welfare office

The Youth Welfare Office helps, advises, protects and supports. The Youth Welfare Office plans, organises and finances numerous local services for young people and their families. Family is a life task for all generations. The Youth Welfare Office sees itself as a partner to its families. It is committed to supporting and strengthening families and improving their living conditions as far as possible. The Youth Welfare Office wants to support others in their commitment to families.

## Counselling hotline of the Germersheim District Youth Welfare Office

Mrs Patricia Michl

- 17er-Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/53432
- p.michl@kreis-germersheim.de
- Click here to go to the website of the district youth welfare office





#### Family offices/family homes

If you are new to the district of Germersheim or don't know your way around, it can sometimes be difficult. There are many new things that may be difficult to understand. You have to fill out applications. Or make appointments - at kindergarten and school, at the doctor's or at the administration. Some people need help or counselling.

Or you would like to do more locally in your free time. And get to know people. That can also be difficult sometimes.

#### Do you need help or advice?

Then your local family office can help you. The family offices are advice centres. Anyone can drop in. They are open to parents, children, young people and families. They help with questions. And they support people. The family offices are located throughout the district of Germersheim.

The counselling sessions at the family office are confidential. The staff do not tell anyone about them. They are open to all people. They accept them as they are.

The family offices support people in all areas - whether in their personal lives or in their communities. The employees are against violence. They promote the equal treatment of women and men. And they help with integration. The family offices help people to help themselves (help for self-help).

#### Would you like to get to know the people in your village or town better?

Family offices offer the opportunity to get together and socialise. They also offer talks where people can find out more about what interests them in their everyday lives. Many family offices also organise leisure activities. Many family offices also take part in the <a href="Intercultural Week">Intercultural Week</a>. The programmes can be found at the individual family offices. And in some cases also in the Integreat app.

#### Are the programmes offered by the family offices the same everywhere?

Every family office has slightly different programmes. Depending on what is important locally at the time.

The services offered by the family offices are general:

- they help with filling out and understanding applications for authorities
- · They go along to appointments with the authorities or the doctor
- · they help and advise families in all situations
- · they offer family education programmes
- they organise opportunities to get together
- promote a sense of community through celebrations
- · they visit the families if they wish
- · they provide social counselling
- they go along to appointments at daycare centres and schools
- · they help to utilise local offers





• they do integration work (e.g. for people with disabilities, migrants and asylum seekers)

#### Can the family offices help with all issues?

The family offices are general advice centres. However, there are also counselling centres for **specific topics**. For example, the consumer advice centre, advice centres for problems with addiction and or only for women. The family offices can put you in touch with them. They also know important addresses and telephone numbers.

#### Do I have to pay for counselling at the family office?

All counselling in the family offices is free of charge!

#### Do you only speak a little German?

Many of the staff at the family offices speak languages other than German. Nevertheless, it is always a good idea to bring someone with you who can translate.

# Local family offices

There are family offices in all of the municipalities, in the town of Germersheim and in the town of Wörth.

# Family office of the municipality of Lingenfeld



Contact: Mr Markus Schenk and Mr Christodoulos Koulouris

Schulstraße 7, 67363 Lustadt

015901980517

015906820595

familienbuero-lingenfeld@sepia-speyer.de

Opening hours

Mondays: 09:00 to 12:00 in Lustadt, Schulstr. 7

Thursdays: 09:00 to 12:00h in Lingenfeld, Hauptstr. 58

Appointments can also be arranged flexibly outside office hours.

The Lingenfeld Family Centre introduces itself Profile HDF.pdf

House of the Family Flyer DinLang ready.pdf

Further information about the family office can be found <a href="here">here</a>.







# Family office bellA of the municipality of Bellheim

Contact persons: Mrs Jasmin Ulu and Mrs Kerstin Hess

- Schulstraße 47, 76756 Bellheim
- 0152/56444366
- 0152/56444356
- bellabellheim@agfj-pfalz.de
- Further information about the family office can be found <u>here</u>.



# Family office of the municipality of Rülzheim

# **Janine Sabetz**

- **♀**Eisenbahnstraße 32, 76761 Rülzheim
- @Familienbuero-ruelzheim@lebenshilfe-ger.de
- <u>+49 (0) 72727778161</u>
- +49 (0) 1637594337
- https://www.ruelzheim.de/vg\_ruelzheim/de/Leben%20...
- Please make an appointment for counselling
- Further information about the family office can be found here.

# Rheinzabern family office of the municipality of Jockgrim



Contact person: Mr Christian Großhans (Manager)

@grosshans@lebenshilfe-ger.de

07271/93419120

Contact: Mrs Nesibe Dogan, Mrs Monika Roth and Mrs Rusudan Bersirova

Am Sportplatz 6, 76764 Rheinzabern





#### 07271/599175

@familienbuero-jockgrim@lebenshilfe-ger.de

Contact person:

Mrs Nesibe Dogan

0151/54448989

@dogan@lebenshilfe-ger.de

Mrs Monika Roth

**\\_**0173/3470815

@roth@lebenshilfe-ger.de

Mrs Rusudan Bersirova

<u>0157/54100643</u>

@bersirova@lebenshilfe-ger.de

Further information about the family office can be found here.

# AGFI

# Family office bellA of the municipality of Kandel

- Am Plätzl 1, 76870 Kandel
- 07275/9196580
- 0152/56444360 or 0151/54882223 or 0152/56444374
- bellAKandel@agfj-pfalz.de
- Further information about the family office can be found <a href="here">here</a>.

# Women's and Family Centre (FFZ) Kandel e.V.

- Luitpoldstraße 6, 76870 Kandel
- 07275/4316
- info@ffz-kandel.de
- Office: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 09:00 to 12:00h
- Further information about the family centre can be found here.







# Family office of the municipality of Hagenbach

Contact person: Mr Casjen Klosterhuis (coordination) and Ms Kaja Crocoll

- Bienwaldstraße 4a, 76767 Hagenbach
- 0151/40638637 (Mr Klosterhuis) or 0151/40638677 (Mrs Crocoll)
- familienbuero-hagenbach@cjd.de
- © Open consultation hours:

Thursdays, 16:30 to 18:00h

Further appointments can be arranged

Further information about the family office can be found here.



# Family Office of the City of Germersheim

Contact person: Mrs Andrea Krey (Coordination)

- Germersheim Town Council, An Fronte Diez 1, 76726 Germersheim
- **\**07274/960281
- **\\_**0172/4427448
- @andrea.krey@germersheim.eu

Family office: Mrs Jolanta Jendrek and Mrs Khadija Manoudi

- An Fronte Diez 1 (detention centre), 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/9491151
- 0162/2010383 (Mrs Jendrek), **\(** 0173/5731148 (Mrs Manoudi)
- familienbuero-germersheim@caritas-speyer.de
- Office hours:

Monday to Friday: 09:00 - 11:30h and 14:00 to 16:00h

Open consultation hours: Mondays from 09:00 to 10:00h

Further appointments can be arranged

Further information about the family office can be found <a href="here">here</a>.







# Family office of the town of Wörth

Contact person: Mr Turgay Cakmak and Ms Claudia Meiburg

- Dorschbergstraße 6, ground floor left, 76744 Wörth
- 07271/1320013
- **1**0151/49242793 (Mr Cakmak) , 0151/40242797 (Mrs Meiburg)
- familienbuero-woerth@ib.de
- ©Consultation hours:

Monday and Friday, 10:00 to 12:00h

Thursday, 13:00 to 15:00h

Further information about the family office can be found <a href="here">here</a>.

#### Do you have general questions about the family offices?

Then Mr Giessen at the district administration can help you.



Mr Wolfgang Giessen (Network Coordination)

- 07274/53310
- w.giessen@kreis-germersheim.de

#### Toddler and play groups, meeting places, cafés

#### Germersheim

#### Parents' café for parents with children up to the age of 3 and pregnant women

Would you like to socialise with other parents, chat over coffee or tea or simply have a good time? Then we look forward to welcoming you and your child!

A playroom with childcare is available for the children.

The offer is free of charge and is organised jointly by the Haus der Familie, the parenting, marriage and life counselling service and the early help service.

Please bring a certified rapid antigen test with you.

When: Wednesdays, from 09:30 to 11:15h





Where: House of the Family, Arrest Building, An Fronte Diez 1, 76726 Germersheim

Further information from:

Family Office of the City of Germersheim

**└**<u>07274/9491151</u> or **└** <u>0162/2010383</u>

@familienbuero-germersheim@caritas-speyer.de

# Hagenbach

#### Repair café

• 2nd floor of the former secondary school, Am Stadtrand 1, 76767 Hagenbach

While we are repairing, you can enjoy coffee and cake or chat with other visitors. If it takes longer, we will contact you when the work is finished.

You can find the dates of the repair café at here

#### German language café

 ♥ Hagenbach Family Centre, Bienwaldstraße 4a, 76767 Hagenbach

German learners and German speakers who would like to have a chat are invited.

Every Wednesday, 16:00 - 18:00h (from 09.04.25)

#### Handicraft meeting

PHagenbach Family Centre, Bienwaldstraße 4a, 76767 Hagenbach

Every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, 15:00 - 18:00h

#### Café Auszeit

PHagenbach Family Centre, Bienwaldstraße 4a, 76767 Hagenbach

Every Tuesday, 09:00h - 11:00h

#### **Games meeting**

Protestant community centre, Konrad-Adenauer-Ring 1, 76767 Hagenbach

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 15:00 - 17:00h





#### **Toddler group**

Phagenbach Family Centre, Bienwaldstraße 4a, 76767 Hagenbach

Every Thursday, 09:30 - 10:30h

#### Local consultation hour

Town hall 1. Berg / 2. Neuburg / 3. Scheibenhardt

Every Thursday, 14:00 to 15:00h

Here is an overview of all Regelmäßige Angebote 25-2.pdf

#### Kandel

# Play afternoon: Meeting point for refugee families with children from Ukraine

In cooperation with the Kandel Youth Welfare Centre and the Kandel Family Centre, the municipality of Kandel is offering an afternoon of games as a meeting point for refugee families with children from Ukraine. The aim is to get to know people, understand cultures and socialise.

When: Mondays, from 14:30 to 16:00h

Where: Kandel town hall, Schulgasse 3, 76870 Kandel

Info and contact: Kandel municipal administration

Mrs Bibiche Ulrich, 📞 07275/960128 or 0159/04240178, @ bibiche.urlich@vg-kandel.de

FFZ House of the Family

Mrs Heidi Untch, \ 07275/4316 or 0163/2136905, @ info@ffz-kandel.de

## Play and toddler group

Meeting place for parents with child(ren) aged 0.5 to 2.5 years. The children can play, paint and do handicrafts in a cosy atmosphere. The parents exchange ideas. Playground visits or joint excursions, a visit to the parents' café or a picnic at the swimming pool - the group decides the programme together.





When: Mondays, from 16:00 to 17:00

Where: FFZ- Haus der Familie, Luitpoldstraße 6, 76870 Kandel

Contact: Mrs Melanie Heilmann, 📞 0176/56793831

#### Parents' café "Time out"

A little break from everyday life with a cup of coffee or tea. The children can play in the playroom under supervision while the mums and / or dads can chat over coffee, tea and a lovely breakfast. midwife Jana Frech visits us at regular intervals and is happy to answer any questions with help and advice! www.freche-hebamme.de

The parents' café of the FFZ - Haus der Familie Kandel takes place in cooperation with the Caritas Centre.

When: Tuesdays, from 09:30 to 11:30h

Where: FFZ - Haus der Familie (next to the Kulturkeller), Luitpoldstraße 6, 76870 Kandel

Contact: 4 07275/4316, 4 0163/2136905 @ info@ffz-kandel.de

#### Begegnungstreff - meeting place for refugees from Ukraine

The Begegnungstreff offers space for cosy get-togethers and cultural exchange. The focus is on encounters, getting to know people and engaging in dialogue! With activities for children.

People who would like to join in and get involved are very welcome.

When: Wednesdays, from 15:30 to 17:30

Where: Max and Moritz, Rheinstraße 65, 76870 Kandel

An offer of the Kandel Association of Municipalities in cooperation with the FFZ-Haus der Familie Kandel

Info and contact:

Municipal administration Kandel

Contact: Mrs Bibiche Ulrich, \( \superscript{07275/960128} \) or \( \frac{0159/04240178}{0159/04240178} \) \( \text{\text{o}} \) bibiche.ulrich@vg-kandel.de

FFZ- House of the Family

Contact: Mrs Heidi Untch, \( \superscript{\subscript{07275/4316}} \) or \( \frac{0163/2136905}{2} \) \( \overline{\text{@} \) \( \text{info@ffz-kandel.de}} \)





# **Breakfast together**

Have breakfast together in a relaxed atmosphere, exchange ideas and make new contacts.

For organisational reasons, please register in advance.

Contribution towards expenses: €6.00 per person

When: Every 2nd Wednesday of the month (12.10., 09.11. and 14.12.2022), from 09:30 to

12:00h,

Where: FFZ- House of the Family, Luitpoldstraße 6, 76870 Kandel

Contact and registration: Barbara Asselmeyer, \$\scrick\$ 07274/5474

# Lingenfeld

#### "Open crawling meeting"

The Haus der Familie invites you to an open toddler meeting. We offer stimulating activities for children in a safe environment as well as opportunities to chat over a snack in a cosy atmosphere.

Dates:

07.01.2025

23.01.2025

04.02.2025

20.02.2025 09:00 - 12:00

The offer is free of charge!

♥ House of the family, Schulstraße 7, 67363 Lustadt

The open crawling meeting takes place regularly.

#### "Parents' café"

The parents' café serves to establish contacts, exchange ideas and impart knowledge on various topics. Parents' concerns relating to school, upbringing, education and bureaucratic matters can be discussed in an open setting in the afternoon.

Canteen Primary School Lingenfeld, Humboldtstr. 5, 67360 Lingenfeld

When: 26.02.2025 from 15:30 - 17:30

The offer is free of charge!

The parents' café takes place regularly





#### Rülzheim

# Café Klatsch - free breakfast for parents and children organised by the Rülzheim Family Office

The Rülzheim Family Office invites parents and children to a (free) breakfast together in the municipality.

When: every 1st Wednesday of the month, from 10:00 to 12:00

Where: Protestant Church, Hoppelgasse 35, 76761 Rülzheim

The organisation depends on the current situation in the Corona pandemic.

Registration under: Mrs Janine Sabetz and Mrs Olfa Belfadhel, \( \subseteq \frac{07272/7778161}{0} \) **@** familienbuero-ruelzheim@lebenshilfe-ger.de

Cafe Klatsch.pdf

#### Wörth on the Rhine

#### Parents' café "all round"

The parents' café is an open door place to talk and listen, to exchange ideas, get to know each other, get ideas, have fun, expand knowledge, strengthen families, experience togetherness ... drink a cup of coffee.

For parents with children from 0 to 3 years. No pre-booking required.

Please observe the 3G rule and wear a mask (medical/FFP2) indoors!

A cooperation between the Caritas Centre Germersheim and the Family Office Wörth

When: Tuesdays, from 09:30 to 11:30h

Where: Multi-generation centre Wörth, Ahornstraße 5, 76744 Wörth am Rhein

#### Are you looking for a toddler group near you?

Click here for an overview of the toddler groups in the district of Germersheim.

Are you looking for leisure activities for children and young people?

In our app you will also find offers especially for children and teenagers





#### Early help network

# Are you pregnant or do you have children under the age of 6? And do you have questions and concerns?

Then the Early Help Network can support you. Under the motto "Early on - in good shape... Right from the start!", it offers many services for parents. It supports families from pregnancy until the children are 6 years old. The focus of the work is on children aged 0 to 3 years. The network aims to help with questions and concerns. The aim of the services is to ensure that children can develop healthily and grow up without violence.

The network offers information and services on the following topics

- pregnancy
- babies
- · (small) children

#### It offers you

- Counselling
- support
- help

The network includes family midwives and family health and nursing carers (FGKiKP). They also come to your home. Mums and dads can also take part in parent cafés and parent meetings. There they can exchange ideas or get support from a parenting advice centre. And the family offices with their many services are also part of the Early Help programme in the district.

Early help services are usually free of charge for families. No application has to be made. The service is only available to families who want it. Nobody has to accept the offer.







#### **Further information is available here:**

- Early help Family guide
- Pregnancy counselling at the Caritas Centre Germersheim
- Early intervention centre for the diagnosis, treatment and support of children and young people who are diagnosed or suspected of having developmental problems Frühförderzentrum St. Laurentius und Paulus
- The most important facts about the early detection examinations in childhood U1 to U9 briefly explained
- Calculate U-examination dates for your child
- Health information on the topic of women's health/maternal health from the Federal Centre for Health Education
- Health information in various languages from <u>Landeszentrum Gesundheit in Nordrhein</u> <u>Westfalen</u> on the topics of pregnancy and birth, infants and toddlers and children and adolescents
- Films from the Federal Centre for Health Education on the <u>topics of bonding</u>, <u>playing</u>, eating and language.

... and in the <u>family offices</u> in the municipality or city.

#### Educational counselling, marriage counselling and life counselling

#### Marriage and family counselling

There can always be problems in a partnership or marriage. And there are also often problems or arguments between parents and their children. Sometimes it is not possible to solve these problems alone. Then it can help to ask someone for advice. This is what marriage and family counselling is for. People work there who are trained to help. They provide support in overcoming the challenges and problems in the relationship or in the family.

Anyone and everyone can contact the counselling centre. Counselling is free of charge. Everything that is discussed during counselling remains confidential. Nobody else finds out about it.

There are various counselling centres in the district of Germersheim. Caritas and AWO offer counselling.

#### **Caritas Centre Germersheim**

The Caritas Centre offers free advice and support.

It helps with

- · Questions about parenting,
- · Worries about your own children,
- · problems in the partnership,





· anxiety and grief

#### In Germersheim

- 17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/94910

#### Appointments can be made:

Monday and Wednesday, 08:30 - 12:00h,

Tuesday and Thursday, 08:30 - 12:00h and 13:00 - 16:30h

#### **Branch office in Wörth**

- Mozartstraße 5, 76744 Wörth
- 07274/94910

Appointments can be made by telephone

Further information can be found here.

#### Workers' Welfare Association (AWO) advice centre

The AWO counselling centre offers free advice. It helps with problems in relationships and in the family. But also for other life issues.

Its services include

- · Partnership counselling
- · Marriage counselling
- · Family counselling
- Life counselling
- · Counselling for individual problems and life crises
- · Counselling for separation and divorce
- · Counselling in matters of custody and access rights
- · Lectures and seminars
- Participation in family court proceedings (according to §50 SGB VIII) on behalf of the Germersheim Youth Welfare Office

#### **AWO** counselling centre

Contact: Tabea Rieke, qualified social education worker

- Waldstraße 38, 76870 Kandel
- 07275/9886850





Fax: 07275/9886859

#### Telephone consultation hours:

Appointments can best be made by telephone:

always Monday to Thursday, 11:30 - 12:30h

Further information can be found here.

#### **Education and Participation (Financial Support)**

Families with low incomes can apply for benefits under the education and participation package. Depending on the type of assistance, subsidies or full cost coverage can be granted for school trips, school materials, lunch, club memberships, learning support and school transport.

The education and participation package (Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket) enables children in need to be able to better participate in the social and cultural life of the community.

Further information, contact persons and links to the applications can be found here.

# Multigenerational house

Multi-generation houses are places where people can meet, no matter how old they are. The houses are places where people can meet and get to know each other outside of the family. They can contribute themselves, their interests and their skills there. This gives them the opportunity to help shape the space in which they live.

Multi-generation centres coordinate their services with their local communities. They want to provide local services that are really needed.

Multi-generation centre Wörth am Rhein

Click here for the special offers for children and young people.

Youth welfare / Youth Welfare Office / General Social Services (ASD)

# Youth welfare office

# Youth welfare

Do you have any questions or problems regarding the care of your children? Do you have questions or problems with bringing up your children? Do you need help caring for your children? Or do you need legal representation yourself?





Then you can contact the Youth Welfare Office.

The Youth Welfare Office supports young people. It looks after children, adolescents and young adults. And it also helps their parents. Or others who look after the children (guardians).

If there are problems with parenting in the family, the youth welfare office can provide advice and help. And the youth welfare office can also help if there are questions or problems that have nothing to do with the family.

The youth welfare office can help or support with these issues:

- General counselling and support for the family
- Counselling on the topics of partnership, separation and divorce, personal care
- Youth work / youth social work
- · Crisis intervention
- Help with parenting
- · Integration assistance
- · Youth welfare in criminal proceedings
- · Advance maintenance payments
- Legal counselling
- Other services

#### Youth Welfare Office of the Germersheim District Administration

- 17er Str. 1, 76726 Germersheim
- +49 (0) 727453229
- <u>@Kreisverwaltung@kreis-germersheim.de</u>
- Further information is available <u>here</u>.
- Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 08:30 - 12:00h

Monday and Wednesday, 13:30 - 16:00h

Thursday, 13:30 - 18:00h

#### **General Social Service (ASD)**

The General Social Service (ASD) is the central point of contact for children and young people, young adults and families living in the district of Germersheim. The ASD is part of the Youth Welfare Office.

The ASD provides support and assistance in coping with everyday life, problems and crisis situations. The central tasks of the ASD also include organising and planning educational assistance and <a href="mailto:child.com">child.com</a>.





The ASD can help and support when:

- Children or young people are in trouble with their parents
- · Children or young people can no longer cope at home or are experiencing violence there
- Parents need help with parenting
- Parents are overwhelmed in everyday life with their children
- · the school has recommended contacting the youth welfare office,
- people are worried about a child regardless of whether they are educators or teachers, neighbours or sports coaches or other people from the community
- there are conflicts in a partnership. ASD can also provide counselling in the event of separation and divorce
- · proceedings are pending before the family court

The ASD has a broad network of co-operation partners and can also mediate if necessary.

Thanks to the district social work, the ASD has a permanent contact person for each local authority. You can find the breakdown by district at here

#### **Contact:**

Youth welfare office counselling hotline

Mrs P. Michl

**♀**17er Straße 1, 76276 Germersheim

+49 (0) 727453432

@p.michl@kreis-germersheim.de

SASD Kreis Germersheim

#### **Senior citizens**

#### Senior citizens' representatives and advisory councils

There are around 18.9 million people aged 65 or over in Germany. This means that the senior citizens target group makes up over 22 per cent of the total population throughout Germany.

There are also many senior citizens in the district of Germersheim. They often have different questions and problems than younger people. That is why there are senior citizens' representatives in the district. They have an open ear for the concerns of older citizens.

The senior citizens' representatives are impartial. They mediate between citizens, the administration and politicians.

They develop and maintain contacts with clubs and organisations in the local community. They arrange help and counselling services. And they stand up for the interests of older people. They ensure that the needs of the older generation are taken into account. They help to recognise them and pass them on.

They are personally available to all local citizens. Or by telephone, letter or e-mail.





#### **Contact person**

Germersheim district administration

Mrs Valkana Krstev

**♀** Waldstraße 13a, 76726 Germersheim

Room: 3

07274/53279

@v.krstev@kreis-germersheim.de

Further information on the senior citizens' representatives and advisory councils as well as the senior citizens' offices can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

Information on care in the Germersheim district can be found here.

# **Community Nurse Plus**

Society in Germany is getting older and older. There are also many elderly (very elderly) people in the district of Germersheim. But not all older people need care. Some simply need a little support. That's why the Germersheim district has the Community Nurse Plus.

The Community Nurse Plus visits and advises older people. If they wish, even in their own home. These visits are about recognising people's needs. It is important to recognise needs at an early stage. It is also about recognising risks. And to help accordingly. The aim is to enable older people to lead independent lives for as long as possible.

The Community Nurse Plus provides advice on the following topics:

- Health
- nutrition
- mobility
- · Help and care
- Local offers (e.g. senior meetings, exercise programmes, events or courses)
- · how to establish social contacts. This strengthens independence
- how everyday life can be made easier

She would also like to suggest corresponding programmes in the respective regions. Or implement them themselves. The aim is to further develop the infrastructure. The Community Nurse Plus programme should enable people to live healthy and independent lives in their community for a long time.

All professionals in the Community Nurse Plus programme have training in nursing. They also have many years of experience as nurses or geriatric carers. However, they do not provide advice on care issues. They do not provide any care services themselves. However, they will arrange appropriate support for the elderly if required. In this case, they refer them to the relevant <u>care support centre</u>. They work closely with this centre.





The counselling is only an offer. It is voluntary and free of charge. Nobody has to accept the offer. All questions are treated with absolute confidentiality.

#### **Contact persons:**

Social Care Centre Rülzheim, Bellheim, Jockgrim e.V.

Mrs Ramona Baudy

Mittlere Ortsstraße 38

76761 Rülzheim

+49 (0) 72729734734

**49** (0) 17619117772

@gemeindeschwesterplus@sozialstation-ruelzheim.de

Rülzheim Social Care Centre - Gemeindeschwesterplus

Important: Currently no counselling by the GemeindeschwesterPlus is possible.

Do you need support?

Then the social centre Rülzheim, Bellheim, Jockgrim e.V. can help you.

<u>07272/919177</u>

@info@sozialstation-ruelzheim.de

Specialist in the Community Nurse Plus project for the municipalities of Hagenbach and Kandel and the town of Wörth

Mrs Angelika Drodofsky

**♀**Keltenstraße 15a

76744 Wörth a. R.

**4**+49 (0) 7271131151

**4**+49 (0) 1622138547

@gemeindeschwester@woerth.de

Town of Wörth-Community Nurse Plus

Click here for the flyer

# Leisure activities, culture and sport

Leisure time





Many people want to do something in their free time. They are looking for cultural activities. Or they want to do sport. Many also want to be active in nature. There are many opportunities for this in the district of Germersheim. There are parks, quarry ponds, forests and sports facilities where you can relax. Some offers are free, others cost admission.

In Germany, many leisure activities are organised in clubs. Some clubs are free of charge. For others, you have to pay a membership fee. The fee is usually paid annually. There are often family memberships for families.

There are sports clubs, choirs and cultural organisations. There you can share hobbies and interests. You can also meet new people and make friends in clubs.

## Don't have enough money for your children to join a club?

Then there is the <u>education and participation</u> package. There you can apply for subsidies for membership fees. These grants are only available for children and young people.

## Are you looking for activities for your children during the school holidays?

Many parents have to work during their children's school holidays because they don't have that many days off. This is why there is the option of holiday childcare. On the district website you will find a leisure and holiday calendar with many offers. In addition to the clubs, the family offices and youth centres often also offer great activities. Some offers are free of charge, others cost something. However, the costs are often low.

**Example 2** Leisure and holiday calendar for the district of Germersheim

You can find more offers in our **Events** section

#### What activities are available in the district of Germersheim?

There is a lot on offer in the district of Germersheim. The offers also change frequently. We can only show a small selection here. You can find more offers in our <u>"Events"</u> section

- · Wine festivals and fairs
- Palatinate wine festivals and fairs
- Offers in and around the water
- Solution of the solution of th
- Römerberg quarry pond and campsite in Lingenfeld
- Rülzheim lido and campsite
- Forest swimming pool (outdoor pool) Kandel
- Wörth indoor and outdoor swimming pools
- Playgrounds
- Alla Hopp facility Rülzheim





Spielplatznet.de - Here you will find a list of many playgrounds in the district of Germersheim. You can also search for playgrounds in your neighbourhood

## · Clubs / Sports

You can find an overview of all clubs in our app under Clubs

- Sportbund Pfalz Here you will find a list of sports clubs and contacts in the Germersheim sports district
- Kreisjugendring Germersheim Clubs and youth organisations in the district of GER

#### Do you have further questions about leisure activities?

If you have any questions or are interested, the <u>family offices</u> can also help you. They know the local area well and can give you tips on organising your leisure time.

Alternatively, you can contact the **tourism departments of the town councils and local authority administrations**:

- Tourism department Germersheim district administration
- Tourism and Leisure VG Bellheim
- Experience the town of Germersheim
- Culture and tourism VG Hagenbach
- Tourism and culture VG Jockgrim
- Südpfalz Tourism Rülzheim
- Leisure and culture VG Rülzheim
- Tourism town of Kandel
- Southern Palatinate Tourism Bienwaldregion Kandel
- Tourism VG Lingenfeld
- Tourism and tourism town of Wörth
- Discover the Southern Palatinate

## Meeting places and social cafés

Locally organised meeting places and social cafés are ideal for meeting fellow countrymen, other refugees or locals, exchanging ideas and getting to know new people.

## Meeting places and social cafés

**Bistro International "Max and Moritz"** 





- Rheinstraße 65, 76870 Kandel
- 07275/4316
- info@ffz-kandel.de
- Opening hours: Friday, 16:00 18:00h

# Meeting point at "Max und Moritz" - for refugees from Ukraine (and their children)

- Rheinstraße 65, 76870 Kandel
- 07275/4316 or 0163/2136905
- info@ffz-kandel.de

or at the VG Kandel

- 07275/960128 or 0159/04240178
- bibiche.ulrich@vg-kandel.de
- Opening hours: every Wednesday, 15:30 to 17:30h

Further information can be found here.

## Town centre shop

Contact person: Mr Klaus Strauß

- In der kleinen Au 10, Whg. 100, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/704998
- stadtteilladen@gmx.de
- Further information can be found here.

# Café One World - meeting place for people from all over the world

Interkultur Association

Reduitstraße 10, 76726 Germersheim

Meeting: every Sunday, 13:00 - 16:00h

## The repair café

"Fraktionshaus", Eugen-Sauer-Straße 4, 76726 Germersheim (entrance from the cinema forecourt, Sandstraße 12 A), ground floor entrance, blue door





Repair Café

Meetings: every fourth Saturday of the month, 14:00 - 17:00h

Dates Repair Café 2025.pdf

#### Café Mehrwert - Multigenerational Centre Wörth + Wört(h)er Treff

Ottstraße 54, 76744 Wörth

**\\_**07271/8622

@mgh-woerth@ib.de

Opening hours:

Wednesdays, 18:30 - 20:00h

You can find further offers under the heading Meeting and support

Under the heading **Events** you will also find a varied and constantly changing programme.

#### Offers for children and young people

Many children and young people are looking for something to do in their free time. Some go to clubs, play sports or meet up with friends. However, there are often not so many public places for children and young people to meet. This is where the children's and youth centres come in. They are open to everyone. Anyone can drop by. And they offer programmes for children and young people. They often also offer activities during the holidays. Many of the programmes are free of charge. Or they only cost a little money. The supervisors in the youth centres look after the children and young people on site.

# Play afternoon - meeting place for refugee families with children from Ukraine

The games afternoon is an offer from the Kandel Association of Municipalities in cooperation with the Kandel Youth Care Centre and the FFZ-Haus der Familie Kandel. It is aimed at families and their children from Ukraine and is a meeting place where people can get to know each other, understand cultures and socialise.

Kandel town hall, Schulgasse 3, 76870 Kandel

## **VG Kandel**

07275/960128 or 0159/04240178

bibiche.ulrich@vg-kandel.de

## FFZ House of the Family

07275/4316 or 0163/2136905





- info@ffz-kandel.de
- Monday, 14:30 to 16:00h

Further information can be found <u>here</u>.

## Children's and youth centres

# Are you between 6 and 21 years old? And you don't know what to do in your free time?

The children's and youth centres offer a wide range of activities to help you organise your free time. They also offer cultural and political education. And they offer an opportunity for participation.

The centres offer many leisure activities that take place throughout the year. They often also organise holiday programmes. Many of the programmes are free of charge. Or they only cost a little money.

## Internationaler Bund (IB) Südwest GmbH Youth Centre Wörth

- Ahornstraße 5, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- 07271/8622
- juze-woerth@ib.de

## Maximiliansau youth centre

- Königsberger Straße 2, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- 07271/408823
- juze-woerth@ib.de
- Click here for the Wörth/Maximiliansau children's and youth centre

#### **Horseshoe Youth Centre Germersheim**

- Glacisstraße 9, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/702534
- juz-germersheim@ib.de
- Click here for the **Hufeisen youth centre**





# Sondernheim youth centre

- Germersheimer Straße 14, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/703568
- Click here for the Sondernheim youth centre

## District shop (cooperation between various organisations)

Offers: Homework help, meeting place for girls and boys, holiday programmes and much more

Contact person: Mr Klaus Strauß

- In der kleinen Au 10, Whg. 100, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/704998
- stadtteilladen@gmx.de
- Click here to go to the neighbourhood shop

# **Church youth organisations**

The churches in the Germersheim district also offer a wide range of programmes. They offer the opportunity to experience community. You can also get involved in youth politics and practise democracy there.

#### **Protestant Youth Centre Germersheim**

Contact persons: Mrs Hannah Schneider and Mrs Natalie Dernberger

- Hauptstraße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/9499925
- juz.germersheim@evkirchepfalz.de
- Click here for the Protestant Youth Centre

## Catholic Youth Centre Germersheim/Landau

- Glacisstraße 4, 76829 Landau
- 06341/20419
- kjz-germersheim@bistum-speyer.de
- Click here for the Catholic Youth Centre





#### **Germersheim District Youth Association**

The Kreisjugendring Germersheim e.V. is an association of clubs and organisations involved in independent child and youth work

# Kreisjugendring Germersheim c/o. Kreisjugendamt

- 17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/53372
- eMail@kjr-germersheim.de

1st chairperson: Nathalie Dernberger c/o Protestant Youth Centre

- Hauptstraße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- Click here for the district youth organisation

#### Would you like to do something in the district?

In our app you will find a varied and constantly changing programme under the heading **Events** 

#### Are you looking for a leisure activity?

In our app you will find further ideas and information on what you can do with children and young people in your free time under the heading <u>Leisure</u>.

## Do you want to join a club?

You can find all the important addresses and contacts in the Clubs section of our app

#### Clubs

#### What are clubs?

There are many different associations in Germany. They deal with different topics. Associations are groups of people who work together towards

for a specific goal. They play an important role in society.

In Germany, more than 90 per cent of people volunteer in associations. They do not receive any money for this. Every German is a member of at least one of the

580,000 clubs and societies.

Clubs often have favourable offers, such as sports courses. Around one in three Germans is a member of a sports club.

In clubs, it is important to work for a common cause. Origin or social status play no role here. Clubs help to strengthen cohesion in society.

society.





#### Don't you have enough money to pay the club membership fee?

Membership fees in clubs are often not high. However, if you can't pay the costs yourself, you can apply for help. There are grants so that people with

people with less money can take part in the programmes. You can apply for a cost subsidy (for participation in social and cultural life) via the education and participation programme.

and cultural life).

#### Which clubs are there in general?

Sport is the largest club sector in Germany. There are over 90,000 sports clubs. Many of these clubs have been around for a very long time. A third of the sports clubs

were founded before the Second World War. The situation is similar for social clubs.

Most clubs are active in the local area (72 per cent). People are mainly drawn to clubs because they want to do something locally.

There are many clubs and groups in the district of Germersheim that are committed to various issues. These include, for example

- Sports clubs (gymnastics, ball sports, fishing and many more)
- Music clubs
- Environmental protection / animal welfare
- · Fruit growing and horticulture
- · Human rights / child protection
- Youth and social work
- cultural area
- · Self-help groups
- · citizens' initiatives
- networks
- · Interest groups
- General German Automobile Club (ADAC)
- Voluntary fire brigade

## Which clubs are there in the district of Germersheim?

Click here for the clubs and societies in the towns and municipalities: You can find a selection of links to various clubs in the district of Germersheim here:

- Clubs in the town of Germersheim
- · Clubs in the town of Wörth
- Clubs VG Bellheim
- · Clubs VG Hagenbach
- Clubs VG Jockgrim
- Clubs VG Kandel
- Clubs VG Lingenfeld





Clubs VG Rülzheim

A further selection of links to various clubs in the district of Germersheim can be found here:

- Sportbund-Pfalz / alphabetical list of clubs (or by location)
- · Badminton clubs in the district of Germersheim
- Germersheim District Youth Association
- Fruit and horticultural clubs Rhineland-Palatinate, Germersheim district
- Haus- und Grund Germersheim e.V.
- Palatinate Sports Shooting Association e.V.
- Palatinate Fishing Association
- Palatinate Sport Fishing Association
- Lusoria Rhenana Roman Ship Experience

# Participation, involvement and commitment/volunteering

## Strategic integration concept for the district of Germersheim

Many people from different backgrounds and cultures live in the district of Germersheim. Sometimes living together is difficult. There can be misunderstandings and problems. Or there is no dialogue between the groups.

Different people have different needs. And also different difficulties. The district of Germersheim is committed to ensuring that everyone can live well together here. The needs of individuals should be respected.

An integration concept can contribute to this. It can help to see what people need. It provides an overview of what services are available in the Germersheim district. And it highlights opportunities for improvement.

#### How did the integration concept come about?

In 2010, the district council adopted its own integration concept for the district of Germersheim. A steering group was put together. It was to accompany the process.

The contents of the integration concept were then implemented by the integration control centre.

Since then, the steering group has consisted of various members:

- · Four representatives of the district administration,
- four representatives of the parliamentary groups (district council)
- four members of the Advisory Board for Migration and Integration
- the Commissioner for Migration and Integration
- The chairman of the steering group is District Administrator Martin Brandl. His deputy is the 1st district councillor

#### Are you interested in the 2015 integration concept?



Then you can find it at  $\bigcirc$  here.

## Update of the integration concept

In 2021/22, it was decided that the integration concept should be updated. The district administration has therefore started to update it.

First, many active people in the district of Germersheim were asked about topics and needs relating to migration and integration.

Subsequently, subject areas were selected. Working groups were then formed on these topics.

## Would you like to know what has happened so far?

Here you can see the timeline:

- 1st step (2021/2022): Discussion of the specific target groups and their needs.
- 2nd step (February/March 2023): Definition of impact targets for the individual needs.
- 3rd step (June/July 2023): Implementation of the impact targets.

#### Would you like to help shape integration in the district of Germersheim?

Then register at: @ integration@kreis-germersheim.de

The steering group is also supporting the process this time. It has these tasks during the update:

- to steer how integration policy should be organised
- to initiate structures that enable participation
- to initiate further coordination structures if necessary
- to monitor implementation
- · it will select the annual measures
- it will review the implementation of the measures.

#### Would you like to get an overview of the entire process?

Then you can find it at here

## Do you have any questions or would you like to contribute to the concept?

Then please get in touch:

Germersheim district administration

Office for Migration and Integration

Mrs Ingrid Lindner

**♀**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim

07274/53487





# @integration@kreis-germersheim.de

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#### Intercultural week

**50 years of Intercultural Week!** - In 2025, the Intercultural Week celebrates its 50th anniversary.

It will take place in the district of Germersheim from **19 September to 14 October 2025**. The new motto is **#forthat** 

Click here for the programme of the Intercultural Week 2025 programme 25\_24.pdf

Would you like to take part? You can submit applications for Intercultural Week now. Please submit your project applications to the Office for Migration and Integration by 11 July 2025



The Germersheim district administration has been taking part in Intercultural Week since 2017. During this time, the Office for Migration and Integration supports many active participants in realising their events and campaigns in the district.

The district administration would like to support the civic and social action of the citizens of the Germersheim district. With their local projects, they are all committed to a good, solidary coexistence of all people.

# Who can submit an application?

Eligible to apply are

- Associations,
- institutions
- **or** organisations in public sponsorship, based in the district of Germersheim
- Initiatives of at least 5 people. Their main residence must be in Germersheim

#### Who cannot submit an application?





We cannot support projects by profit-orientated organisations. We also do not co-operate with institutions that can submit an application.

#### Do the projects have to take place in the district? What do I have to consider?

The project or measure must take place in the district of Germersheim. The funding objectives and criteria must be met.

#### How much funding is available?

The district of Germersheim supports projects with up to €500.00 including a lump sum of €50.00 for expenses.

#### Where can I find further information?

You can find everything you need to know about the application and settlement of funding here:

- Funding guidelines
- Info sheet IKW Application.pdf
- · IKW Application form with funding.pdf
- IKW Application form without funding.pdf
- Blank IKW Verwendungsnachweis.pdf

#### Do you find it difficult to submit an application?

To make the application process easier, there is now a checklist with all the necessary criteria, in different languages:

- · German.pdf
- Shqiptare Albanian.pdf
- Arabic.pdf
- Bulgarian.pdf
- English.pdf
- · French.pdf
- Italian.pdf
- · Polish.pdf
- Romanian.pdf
- · Russian.pdf
- Turkish.pdf
- Ukrainian.pdf

Do you have any questions or suggestions? Would you like to submit an application or account for funds?

#### Then you can contact us here:

Office for Migration and Integration, Germersheim District Administration

Contact person: Mrs L. Valencia





**♀**17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim

**\**07274/532899

@l.valencia@kreis-germersheim.de

Further information on the nationwide IKW and the motto can be found at leave.

## Click here for the programmes of recent years

2024 : Programme IKW 2024.pdf

2023: Programme IKW 2023 Germersheim district.pdf

Review of the Intercultural Week 2023

#### Where does the Intercultural Week come from?

The annual nationwide Intercultural Week (IKW) is an initiative of the German Bishops'
Conference (DBK), the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis.

It has been held at the end of September since 1975. Participants are:

- Churches
- · local authorities
- Welfare organisations
- trade unions
- · Integration advisory councils
- · Integration commissioners
- Religious communities
- · Initiative groups

Around 5,000 events are organised in more than 500 cities and municipalities. The IKW is growing from year to year.

The Day of the Refugee is part of the IKW.

The official homepage of the nationwide Intercultural Week can be found at  $\Theta$  here.

#### Information and contact details for the nationwide Intercultural Week

Ecumenical Preparatory Committee for the Intercultural Week

P.O. Box 16 06 46, 60069 Frankfurt am Main

**\\_**069/24231460

@info@interkulturellewoche.de

Good Practice Examples Intercultural Week





#### International Weeks against Racism - IWgR

The International Weeks Against Racism originated in 1960, when protests against the apartheid regime's passport laws took place in Sharpeville, South Africa, on 21 March. These protests were ended with violence.

In 1966, the United Nations introduced a day of remembrance to commemorate the victims of the massacre. This day later became the International Weeks against Racism.

Since 201, the International Weeks against Racism in Germany have been coordinated by a foundation. This is called the "Foundation for the International Weeks against Racism".

The foundation plans and coordinates the annual UN Weeks against Racism in Germany. It also supports model projects that aim to overcome racism and prevent the marginalisation of minorities. The foundation aims to help expand the work against racism sustainably and throughout the year.

Many activists for democracy are involved in Germany. Together, they campaign against racism and discrimination. They stand for diversity.

# Do you want to know how you can take action against racism? Are you looking for ideas for the International Weeks against Racism?

Then listen to the podcast "Haltung zeigen" from the Foundation for the International Weeks against Racism. You will also find many examples in it

Various people are interviewed in the podcast. They show different ways of taking a stand against racism. There are also tips for your own activities. The aim of the podcast is to motivate and inspire listeners to work together against racism and all forms of group-based enmity.

You can listen to the podcast at here

"Human Rights for All" was the motto of this year's International Weeks against Racism. It took place from 11 to 24 March 2024. This year's ambassador was the Minister for Migration, Justice and Consumer Protection of Thuringia, Doreen Denstädt.







In 2023, the International Weeks against Racism took place under the motto "**Get involved**". The Germersheim district administration's Office for Migration and Integration also took part for the first time.



Are you planning an activity on the topic of diversity for children and still need material?

The **Germersheim District Administration's Office for Migration and Integration** has put together two **diversity boxes** (for children aged 2 to 10). The boxes can be borrowed by kindergartens, primary schools, family offices, associations or initiatives. They are suitable for a variety of activities in the district.





The boxes help to deal with the topic of diversity in a creative and playful way. They can help people to engage with our diverse society.

The boxes contain, among other things

- · Puzzles and books on skin colours and gender roles
- Games to increase self-confidence and self-esteem
- · Memories about different people and family constellations
- · Card and threading games with families from all over the world
- as well as extra-large colouring pictures and matching skin-coloured crayons. They are designed to playfully show children the diversity in society and in people's faces.

With this idea, the Office for Migration and Integration would like to make a contribution to more diversity and against racism in the district of Germersheim.



Do you have any questions or are you interested? Then get in touch:





Office for Migration and Integration

Mrs Valencia

**♀**17er Straße 1

76726 Germersheim

<u>07274/5</u>32899

@integration@kreis-germersheim.de

You can find more information about the Diversity Box here

Foundation against Racism - International Weeks against Racism

#### **Advisory Board for Migration and Integration**

# Advisory board for migration and integration in the district of Germersheim is constituted

At the constituent meeting of the Advisory Board for Migration and Integration of the Germersheim district (BMI) in January, District Administrator Martin Brandl swore the newly elected honorary members of the Advisory Board in November 2024 to conscientiously fulfil their duties. At its first meeting, the new advisory board re-elected Ziya Yüksel (with 13 votes in favour and one against) as the first chairperson for the 2025 to 2029 term of office, as well as the three deputies Dr Dorothea Fuhr, Dr Melda Keser and Dr Irene Lamberz. Other members of the Advisory Board are Aisha Almasri, Cihan Bakan, Yüksel Battal, Albert Breininger, Michael Faber, Marianne Holz, Aleksej Kloster, Olga Lenk, Büsra Lenz, David Rosenberg and Carlos Serrano del Rio. Yüksel Battal, Dr Dorothea Fuhr and Ziya Yüksel and their deputies Cihan Bakan, Dr Melda Keser and Dr Irene Lamberz were elected as delegates to the AGARP (Working Group of Advisory Councils for Migration and Integration).

#### Meeting dates 2025

Wednesday, 21 May 2025, start: 18:30h

Tuesday, 09 September 2025, start: 18:30h

The meetings usually take place in the district administration: 17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim, meeting room (9th floor)

## City of Germersheim

The municipal administration of Germersheim informs about the result of the election of the Advisory Council for Migration and Integration on 10 November 2024. The following persons were elected:

· Battal, Yüksel





- · Halici, Hilal Ayse
- · Lenk, Olga
- · Lenz, Büsra
- · Ünal, Ahmed Yasin
- Ünal, Lütfi

10,086 people were eligible to vote in the city of Germersheim. Of these, 1,076 people voted. This corresponds to 10.7 per cent.

# **Municipality of Jockgrim**

The Jockgrim municipal administration informs about the result of the election of the Advisory Council for Migration and Integration on 10 November 2024. The following persons were elected:

- · Franz, Nadja
- Schätzle, Hermann
- · Ahmed, Kamran
- · Bars, Mukaddes
- · Kalker, Reinhard
- Khaleghi, Mobin
- · Alkohzai, Mahnaz







2,544 people were eligible to vote in VG Jockgrim. Of these, 127 people voted. The voter turnout was 5 per cent.





#### Kandel and Wörth am Rhein

Due to low turnout, the towns of Kandel and Wörth am Rhein **did not** have their own advisory board for migration and integration in this election.

The advisory board represents the interests of people with a migration background in the district of Germersheim. It is a specialised body. The advisory board is elected for five years. The election is democratic.

The elected women and men are of different nationalities.

They do not receive any money for their work. They work on a voluntary basis. They have these tasks and objectives:

- They are committed to ensuring that all people are treated equally regardless of their nationality, culture or religion.
- They want to contribute to the integration of new immigrants.
- they advise municipal and city councils, district councils and administrations with their own topics and ideas.
- they influence local political decisions on the topics of migration and integration.
- they combat racism, xenophobia, prejudice and discrimination.
- They try to help individuals where possible.
- they create meeting places (e.g. women's breakfasts, festivals, concerts, theatre, film screenings, lectures).
- They help to establish contact with the local authorities.
- they support people who want to submit applications to the administration.
- · they mediate in difficult issues.

There are four advisory boards for migration and integration in the district of Germersheim:

- Advisory Council for Migration and Integration District of Germersheim
- Advisory Council for Migration and Integration City of Germersheim
- Advisory Council for Migration and Integration VG Jockgrim

## Who can vote in the district of Germersheim?

- Residents with German citizenship
- · Residents with foreign citizenship
- · Stateless persons
- · Naturalised citizens
- · ethnic German repatriates
- Family members of these groups (aged 16 and over)

Would you like to become a member? Would you like to make a difference yourself?





Then get involved in the Advisory Council for Migration and Integration.

Anyone who lives in the district of Germersheim can stand as a candidate. You must be at least 16 years old. You can be German or have a migration background. Nationality does not matter.

#### Information on the election

240830 Official Gazette 30-2024.pdf

240909 Official Gazette 32-2024.pdf

241007 Official Gazette 37-2024 - CORRECTION.PDF

Further information is available from the district administration

**Volunteering: Helping in the Germersheim district / Initiatives (state and federal)** 

Would you like to get involved in your local community and help people? Or are you looking for help and support yourself?

There are many opportunities in the district of Germersheim. Local people often know best what is needed. In addition to the town councils and municipal administrations, there are also many associations and networks. The <u>advisory boards for migration and integration</u> (BMI) are also active in the district. They are committed to issues relating to migration and integration. If you have any questions or suggestions, you are welcome to contact the advisory boards.

Here you will find a selection of different contacts:



## **District of Germersheim**

Advisory board for migration and integration

Office, Office for Migration and Integration

**♀**Tournuser Platz 2, 76726 Germersheim

@integration@kreis-germersheim.de

**\\_07274/53487** 

07274/532899

## City of Germersheim







# Administration of the city of Germersheim

- Kolpingplatz 3, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/9600
- info@germersheim.eu
- Click here for the administration of the city of Germersheim

You have little money and are looking for clothes, furniture, food?

**Caritas-Warenkorb Germersheim (clothes, crockery, furniture)** 

- Waldstraße 5e, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/9738440
- Click here for the shopping basket

Children's clothes shop (children's clothes, toys...)

- Waldstraße 5, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/8847
- info@kinderschutzbund-germersheim.de
- Click here for the child protection organisation

**Germersheimer Tafel e.V.** ( food)

- Waldstraße 15, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/9498499
- Germersheimer.Tafel@t-online.de

Would you like to exchange ideas with others? Or support migrants?

Interkultur Germersheim e. V., The House of Interculture

- Reduitstraße in Lamotte-Park,76726 Germersheim
- 0179/5175329





- vorstand@verein-interkultur.eu
- Click here for the Interkultur association

# Asylum network of the Catholic project parish

- Klosterstrsße 13 a, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/2750
- pfarramt.germersheim@bistum-speyer.de
- Click here for the Catholic parish

## **Town of Wörth**



## Administration of the town of Wörth am Rhein

- Mozartstraße 2, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- 07271/1310
- Click here for the administration of the town of Wörth

## Internationaler Kulturverein Wörth e.V.

Mr Metin Instabullu

- Richard-Wagner-Str. 23, 76744 Wörth am Rhein
- info@inku-woerth.de
- You can find more information here

# Are you short of money and looking for food or clothing?

# Wörther Tafel e.V. (food with benefit notification)

- In den Niederwiesen 7, 76744 Wörth
- 0173/2804310
- woerther.tafel@gmx.de
- Click here for the Wörther Tafel





# DRK clothing store - "All sorts of things for everyone" (household goods, toys, children's books)

- Schwanenweg 7, 76744 Wörth
- 07271/3489
- 0176/31747626
- Click here for the clothing store

# **Municipality of Bellheim**



# Administration of the municipality of Bellheim

- Schubertstraße 18, 76756 Bellheim
- 07272/70080
- verbandsgemeinde@vg-bellheim.de
- Click here for the administration of the municipality of Bellheim

# Helferkreis Integration VG Bellheim e.V.

Contact persons: Mr Wolfgang Jöckle and Mrs Claudia Bohsung

- Heideweg 9, 76756 Bellheim
- 07272/5307
- hki-bellheim@web.de

# Clothes parlour and bicycle repair shop of the Helferkreis Integration

- Hauptstraße 121, 76756 Bellheim
- Open on alternate days:

Mondays, 15:00 - 17:00h and Fridays, 11:00 - 15:00h

## Knittelsheim help group

Contact person: Mr Markus Weisenburger

Hauptstrasse 33, 76879 Knittelsheim





- 06348/7740
- weisenburger@live.de

# **Municipality of Hagenbach**



# Administration of the municipality of Hagenbach

- Ludwigstr. 20, 76767 Hagenbach
- 07273/94100
- info@vg-hagenbach.de
- Click here for the administration of the municipality of Hagenbach

# **Municipality of Jockgrim**



# Administration of the municipality of Jockgrim

- Untere Buchstraße 22, 76751 Jockgrim
- 07271/5990
- info@vg-jockgrim.de-mail.de
- Click here for the administration of the municipality of Jockgrim

# Advisory board for migration and integration of the VG Jockgrim

- 07271/599176
- BMI@vg-jockgrim.de
- Click here for the Jockgrim Advisory Council for Migration and Integration

# **Municipality of Kandel**







# Administration of the municipality of Kandel

- Gartenstraße 8, 76870 Kandel
- 07275/9600
- info@vg-kandel.de
- Click here for the administration of the municipality of Kandel

# **Asylum round table**

- Gartenstraße 8, 76870 Kandel
- 07275/960105
- christian.hengen@vg-kandel.de
- Click here for the asylum round table

#### **Kandel Active**

- kandelaktiv@gmail.com
- www.kandelaktiv.de

©Current data, addresses, providers and advice centres for and in the Kandel social area can be found at Padlet Kandel Aktiv

## **Municipality of Lingenfeld**



# Administration of the municipality of Lingenfeld

- Hauptstraße 60, 67360 Lingenfeld
- 06344/5090
- info@vg-lingenfeld.de
- Click here for the administration of the municipality of Lingenfeld

# **Lingenfeld Asylum Network Working Group**





- Kirchstr. 2, 67360 Lingenfeld
- 07274/2750

# Working group asylum Schwegenheim

asyl.schwegenheim@gmail.com

## Municipality of Rülzheim



## Administration of the municipality of Rülzheim

- Am Deutschordensplatz 1, 76761 Rülzheim
- 07272/7002-0
- info@ruelzheim.de
- Click here for the administration of the municipality of Rülzheim

## Citizens' initiative for refugee aid

- Am Deutschordenplatz 1, 76761 Rülzheim
- 0157/34501513
- bif@ruelzheim.de
- Click here for the citizens' initiative for refugee aid

or on Facebook

#### **Nationwide**

### **Federal Volunteer Service**

### Would you like to get involved outside of your job or school?

The Federal Volunteer Service is available to men and women. The programme is open to people of all ages. Through this programme, you can work for the common good outside of work and school. The Federal Volunteer Service is possible in various areas: in the social, ecological and cultural fields. But also in the fields of sport, integration or civil defence and disaster control.

Click here for the website.

## **Further initiatives and organisations**





- vhs volunteer portal
- **Amnesty International**
- PRO ASYL e.V. (laws, guidelines, contact to lawyers, telephone first aid counselling etc.)
- **UNHCR** (United Nations Refugee Agency)
- Berlin Refugee Council
- Information Network Asylum and Migration
- **DGB Education Centre**
- Parish office for work with foreigners
- Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)
- Federal Government: The Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration
- **GoVolunteer** brings social projects together with people who want to help

#### In Rhineland-Palatinate

## Refugee Council RLP e.V. - Asylum Working Group (AK Asyl)

The Asylum Working Group helps to network various players. It coordinates various organisations. It also represents the topics of asylum and refugees in committees. It provides information on the subject and organises conferences and training courses. The AK Asyl fights for a lobby for refugees. It brings in their issues in various areas.

- Kurhausstr. 8, 55543 Bad Kreuznach
- 0671/84 59 15-2
- info@asyl-rlp.org
- Click here to go to Flüchtlingsrat RLP e.V.
- Click here to go to the Ministry for Integration, Family, Children, Youth and Women of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate

### Insurance





## Insurance cover for voluntary work

#### Are you doing voluntary work and wondering whether you are insured?

Many people want to do voluntary work for other people and the community in Germany. They do this without receiving any money for it. This is called voluntary work. However, it is important to be well insured for this work in case something happens. Volunteers are usually covered by statutory accident insurance.

This applies, for example, to

- · as a parent council member at school
- as a lay judge in court
- · as an election worker
- as a local elected representative

However, in order to be insured for your voluntary work, you must be working on behalf of the school, a public body or a public institution. Your work must not be paid. And you must not be employed by the organisation you are volunteering for.

#### Are you a volunteer in a club or association?

If you help out in a club or association, you are also insured. It doesn't matter whether you do this directly for the local authority or indirectly as a member of an association. The important thing is that you are working on a voluntary basis on behalf of or with the consent of the local authority.

Local authorities in particular are increasingly reliant on the help of volunteers.

Anyone who has been elected to an honorary post in a non-profit organisation can take out voluntary insurance. This is normally the responsibility of the Verwaltungs-Berufsgenossenschaft.

## You are not insured. What can you do?

There are cases where there is no statutory accident insurance cover. This is the case, for example, if you volunteer as an individual to help refugees. In this case, you must take out private accident insurance.

The Verwaltungs-Berufsgenossenschaft (VBG) offers <u>comprehensive information</u> on accident insurance for volunteers on its website ��

There is also a VBG volunteer hotline: \( \sum\_{040/51461970} \)

The VBG's information specifically for Rhineland-Palatinate can be found at .

## Accident insurance and collective liability insurance for volunteers

Sometimes people get together to do voluntary work. This is often the case when helping refugees. It is important for the work to be well insured in case something happens. The state government of Rhineland-Palatinate offers **collective accident insurance** and **collective liability insurance** for this purpose.





These insurances are available for

- Initiatives, groups and projects that are not legally independent
- that are active in Rhineland-Palatinate
- or whose voluntary work originates from Rhineland-Palatinate

#### Are you working on a voluntary basis and damage has occurred?

Then get in touch with the state government's Volunteer Centre. There is a form there to report the damage

- Further information is available here.
- Flyer <u>"Safety for volunteers"</u>

## Forms for reporting a claim

- Notice of claim for liability insurance
- Notification of claim for accident insurance

# State Chancellery of Rhineland-Palatinate Volunteering and Civic Participation Control Centre

There is a "Volunteering and Civic Participation Control Centre" at the State Chancellery. It is a service centre. Clubs, associations, initiatives and local authorities can contact it if they have any questions about voluntary work.

- Peter-Altmeier-Allee 1, 55116 Mainz
- 06131/164083
- leitstelle@stk.rlp.de

Here you can find more information about the **Wolunteer Centre** 

### Funding opportunities for voluntary work in refugee aid

In 2022, 15.7 million people in Germany were involved in voluntary work. Over half of the volunteers in 2021 were over 50 years old. Senior citizens in particular were involved in voluntary work at an above-average rate.

These people have done something for the community. And often without getting paid for it. But financial support is often important for their work. And also necessary. That is why the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and various foundations provide financial support for voluntary work.

## Funding opportunities from the state government for voluntary work

The state government has a Volunteering and Civic Participation Centre. It can provide advice and information.





#### Do you have questions about financial support and funding?

Then the state government can provide you with information. The offer applies to

- Associations
- foundations
- initiatives
- · Projects and committed individuals
- Municipalities

The state government has compiled an overview of the programmes offered by the ministries and their subject areas. There is a wide range of different programmes and measures.

#### Are you interested in the funding opportunities?

The overview provides you with the contact details of the relevant contact persons. You will also find out about the objectives of the funding programmes. You will also find out what conditions you need to fulfil in order to receive funding.

The state government would like to provide an overview of the funding opportunities that are already available.

#### Do you have any questions?

Then send them to leitstelle@stk.rlp.de

You can go to the control centre here.

#### **Lotto Rhineland-Palatinate Foundation**

The foundation supports charitable organisations and institutions throughout Rhineland-Palatinate. Over one million euros are made available every year. And to more than 1000 partners. The foundation supports partners in the fields of charity, sport and culture. It helps socially significant initiatives. The funds also help to alleviate specific needs.

The foundation's mission goes beyond supporting individual projects. By supporting groups, associations and organisations, it aims to make a contribution to strengthening voluntary work in Rhineland-Palatinate. And thus strengthen social cohesion.

The foundation works

- · creatively
- innovative
- · is not politically bound
- has no corporate obligations
- · free for the benefit of all in society

The foundation favours short and fast routes. This enables it to maintain a constant and lively dialogue with funding partners. It aims to provide practical help on a large and small scale.

Would you like to find out more about the foundation?





You can find more information about the foundation at 🚱 here

#### Would you like to apply for funding directly?

You can find the application form at here

# Funding programmes of the German Foundation for Commitment and Volunteering (DSEE)

The German Foundation for Commitment and Volunteering (DSEE) offers various funding programmes. They are aimed at all organisations that engage in voluntary work.

The DSEE offers detailed information from the federal and state governments.

## Are you looking for funding in a specific area?

Then take a look at the foundation's adatabase

#### Would you like to find out more about the funding programmes?

Then take a look at 🚱 here

# Refuge and asylum

## Training, counselling and support

In Germany, many people do something for the community. They don't get paid for it. This is called volunteering.

In some areas, the work for volunteers can be difficult. Sometimes the helpers themselves reach their limits in their work. Then they also need support themselves. There are various organisations that can advise and support the helpers.

Volunteering is also an important task in the district of Germersheim. It improves the quality of life for many people. And it promotes social cohesion in the region.

Many people in the district are involved in voluntary work. They are active in around 900 clubs, social organisations and projects. Volunteers help in very different areas. For example, in youth work, in supporting other people or in sport.

The Germersheim district administration would like to strengthen and promote voluntary work. And coordinate it even better. That is why the district administration supports volunteers. And it addresses important topics in discussions with people throughout the district.

You can find more information on the topics on the district homepage:

- · Contact persons
- Funding opportunities
- Database for volunteers
- Current events





# Volunteering, committee work



Contact person: Mrs L. Göbel

Luitpoldplatz 1, 76726 Germersheim

**\**07274/531216

L.Goebel@kreis-germersheim.de

You can find more information at here

There are also contact persons for volunteers in the administrations of the towns and municipalities. They can help with questions about volunteering.

Here you can find the right 🚱 contact person for your municipality

#### **Caritas Centre Germersheim**

#### Are you looking for information and tips for your volunteer work?

The Caritas Centre has many volunteers. You can find lots of information and tips on the homepage.



- 17er Straße 1, 76726 Germersheim
- 07274/94910
- caritas-zentrum.germersheim@caritas-speyer.de
- Click here to go to the Caritas Centre
- ©Commitment to refugees tips and information for helpers

## **Rhineland-Palatinate Consumer Advice Centre**



Do you have questions about volunteering? Do you need support and advice?





Then you can contact the consumer advice centre. It can provide information in talks. It offers lectures and workshops.

#### Support centre Germersheim District administration Germersheim

- Luitpoldplatz 1, 76726 Germersheim Room 0.14 on the ground floor (EG)
- germersheim@vz-rlp.de
- Opening hours/counselling hours:
- 07274/53172

Thursday, 10:00 - 15:00h

Please make an appointment

#### What is the consumer advice centre?

You can find more information about the consumer advice centre here.

The consumer advice centre also provides information for refugees and migrants or their helpers on various areas of life. The information is available in several languages.

#### **Feedback**

#### Do you use the app and would like to tell us something about it?

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions. We are also happy to answer your questions.

You can rate whether the individual contents are helpful or unhelpful directly on the app pages. Or you can write to us with questions and suggestions about the app.

Contact us at

i<u>ntegrea</u> t@kreis-germersheim.de

#### Liability notice:

#### In simple language

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