

Initiatives promoting gender equality in education in Germany

1. There are several measures realized or supported by the government concerned with gender equality in education, science and research. To name only a few:

Frauen an die Spitze (Women to the top)

Since 2007 over 100 projects have been funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research that do intensive research on the challenges of making way for women into top-level positions in research and economy. Experts of different branches in science, research and economic practice work together on projects aimed at promoting structural changes.

MINT-Pakt and Girls' Day

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research advocates fair chances for girls and young women outside traditional fields of study and jobs and shows new perspectives to them. Together with partners from research and economy, the Ministry made a pact (MINT-Pakt) to raise women's interest in subjects as Maths, Information Technology, Applied Science and Technology.

Every year technical enterprises, enterprises with technical departments and technical training facilities, universities, and research centres are invited to organise an open day for girls – Girls' Day. Girls' Day initiated a large campaign in which a wide range of professions and activities are presented to girls of 10 years upwards to influence their vocational choices in a positive way.

Neue Wege für Jungs (New Paths in Career and Life Planning for Boys)

New Paths for Boys is a nationwide network and information platform funded by the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Since 2005 it has supported groups and providers in the field of gender-sensitive career and life orientation for boys. New Paths for Boys provides people committed to the task with the latest expert information, print and online materials, as well as teaching media. New Paths for Boys also coordinates the nationwide Boys' Day, which is held once a year in parallel to Girls' Day.

Programme for Women Professors

In order to increase the number of women professors at German institutions of higher education, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) together with the Länder started the Programme for Women Professors in 2007. The continuation of the programme was agreed upon in 2012. The first and second rounds of the program, each with a total budget of 150 million euros, were financed equally by the BMBF and the Länder. On the basis of a positive appraisal of their equality policies, universities and advanced technical and artistic colleges have the opportunity to receive funding for up to three tenure-track W2 and W3 professorships for women.

Center of Excellence Women and Science (CEWS)

<http://www.gesis.org/cews/cews-home/>

The Center of Excellence Women and Science is the national hub for the realization of equal opportunities for both women and men in science and research in Germany. CEWS serves as a think tank for this political field, offering impetus for new ideas, initiating processes of change in support of science, and actively creating and engaging in the necessary exchange between science and politics. CEWS aims to increase the number of women in leading positions at universities and research institutions, to raise the efficiency of political measures aimed at equality and to introduce gender mainstreaming in all areas of science and research.

Beyond these examples there are many more initiatives supported by the federal government and the governments of the Länder, civil society and private sector aiming to support gender equality in education, science and research.

2. List of initiatives, concerned with gender equality, recognized as Official Projects or Official Measures of the UN Decade „Education for Sustainable Development“ (2005-2014):

- **Globales Bildungsnetzwerk www.theglobalexperience.org (Global Education Network)**

www.theglobalexperience.org

„Bringing together the subjects of developmental politics and inter-cultural education in connection with media competence is the initiatives main focus. Topics reach from gender equality to transparency, freedom of opinion and ecological sustainability.

- **Genatec - Gender and sustainability in technical training**

Integrierte Gesamtschule List

<http://www.igslit.de/>

Area of education: School

„Technical training at the comprehensive school List shows only rudimentary connections between technicals, gender and sustainability. „GenaTec“ aims to design a concept that points out ways and possibilities to integrate the topics of gender and sustainability into subjects from robotics to home economics during fifth and sixth grade.“

- **Globales Lernen mit “Frauen am Ball“ (Global Learning with "Women on the ball")**

Aktionsgemeinschaft Solidarische Welt (ASW) e.V.

<http://www.frauen-am-ball.de/globales-lernen.html>

Area of education: non-formal, school

„Learning opportunity for pupils of secondary schools in Berlin and Brandenburg on human rights and women’s rights/gender equality. The aim is that pupils learn to see the social, economic, ecologic and political connections on a global level. Special emphasis lies on the recognition of problems caused by breach of human rights for women, the assessment of gender inequalities and the development of various non-discriminating ways of conduct.“

- **Prima Klima für Frauen (Super climate for women)**

Baufachfrau Berlin e.V.

<http://www.baufachfrau-berlin.de/index.php?id=80>

Area of education: vocational training, informal learning

„New concepts are needed for long term integration of girls and women in an economic sector [renewable energies] which is very important for climate protection. A travelling exhibition portrays nine women with different educational backgrounds in different phases of their career and work environments.“

- **sodalis - Partnerschaft für Eine Welt e.V. (sodalis - Partnership for One World)**

<http://sodalis-partnerschaft-fuer-eine-welt.org/>

Area of education: non-formal, adult education

„The association supports organisations in countries of the global south which champion women and children who are affected by inequality oppression and violence. In Germany sodalis provides education on development politics through lectures/presentations. Topics are gender-related violence, global correlations, social drawbacks or promotion of women.“

- **Internationaler Mädchengarten (International Garden for Girls)**

Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Autonome Mädchenhäuser/ feministische Mädchenarbeit NRW e.V. (LAG/ Fachstelle Interkulturelle Mädchenarbeit)

<https://maedchengartenge.wordpress.com/>

Area of education: non-formal

“In a one week course on several facets of sustainability girls and young women can acquire the title „Girls for Future“. They gain new opportunities and platforms to carry their commitment further and to establish themselves as experts. The project also aims to catalyse networks of girls and young women.“

- **Forschungsstelle für Kulturökologie und Literaturdidaktik (Research centre on cultural ecology and didactics of literature)**

Universität Siegen

<http://www.uni-siegen.de/phil/kulturoekologie/>

Area of education: Teacher-training

„In a project, sponsored by the Ministry of Innovations, Science and Research of Northrhine-Westphalia, the Research Center looks at the connection between gender an sustainability which has not been researched sufficiently yet.“