

Socio-culture

Socio-culture is a programmatic name for discourse, content, practices and forms of organisation that relate society and cultural expression. It opens up different concepts of culture and encourages civic engagement and the creative and cultural skills of many - regardless of age, gender and origin - through cultural participation. It thus attempts to answer the question of how we want to live. The history of socio-cultural work and institutions began in the 1970s. Originating from an urban movement for alternative forms of cultural expression and communication that urged social change; socio-cultural centers and initiatives in cities and towns, as well as in rural areas, are now an integral part of the cultural landscape.

Socio-cultural Actors

The varied and diverse culture work is performed by the actors in socio-cultural centers, networks and initiatives, who also represent cultural policy at the state and federal levels. The work of the socio-cultural actors is characterised by the following principles:

- We make it possible for a wide spectrum of the population to be creative, to organise cultural events and to experience artistic performances of various genres.
- We bring professionals and non-professionals together on stage, allowing them to learn from and with each other in courses, workshops and artistic productions.
- We allow our users to develop their cultural and social potential and to shape their environment sustainably.
- We offer structures and experiences that promote diverse civic engagement.
- We provide rooms, equipment and networks for cultural expression and event formats.
- We bring together partners from different sectors, such as culture, society and education, and initiate and implement alliances.
- Intercultural work means, for us, to make the cultural diversity of society 'experienceable'. This claim is achieved through participation in the design of the program, the personnel structure and the composition of the visitors, and has thus become standard practice.

The Federal Association of Socio-cultural centers (e.V.)

The Federal Association of Socio-cultural centers (e.V.) works as an umbrella and trade association for the recognition and proper advancement of socio-cultural work. Members of the association include the respective regional bodies, through which 470 socio-cultural centers, networks and initiatives are currently organized in Germany. The Federal Association is also itself member of other national and European networks.

The Association works according to the following principles:

We use our expertise to improve the advancement and recognition of socio-culture on the federal policy and administrative level.

We are committed to a culture-friendly environment and are actively involved in the relevant networks and committees.

We actively shape the discourse on cultural policies at the federal level.

We open up federal politics and European developments, issues and resources for our members.

We pool and structure information and make it available to our members.

We qualify staff and volunteer members through conferences, training courses and workshops.

We participate in the development of cultural studies courses for the practice-orientated qualification of graduates in higher education.

We provide our members with concrete benefits through discounts, framework contracts and job aids.

We develop the professional content of concepts in working groups and give impetus to the membership and to the public.

We make the success of socio-cultural work visible through publicity and campaigns.

We are working with the European network of cultural centers and provide our members with international experience.