Where people of all Generations meet.

www.mehrgenerationenhaeuser.de
Where the generations meet:  
450 Multigeneration Centres in Germany

Multigeneration Centres are places where young and old meet, help one another and contribute their experiences and abilities. These straightforward, uncomplicated drop-in centres transfer the principles of the extended family into modern society.

They offer people of different ages and backgrounds the opportunity to get involved, to learn from one another and to experience community life. In close cooperation with their local communities and partners such as local businesses, charities and associations, Multigeneration Centres link and complement the existing social infrastructure of the area.

With many services including advice and consultations on offer, they help to make work and family more compatible, assist with care and support of family members and provide important momentum to achieve better social cohesion.

From 2012 to 2016 the action programme Multigeneration Centres II of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has supported around 450 centres nationwide. Each centre specifically dedicates itself to four key areas: Old Age and Care, Integration and Education, Provision and Procurement of Household Services and Voluntary Involvement. Working across and between the generations as well as the promotion of employability shape the services offered in all key areas.
Active lives: Age and Care

Multigeneration Centres actively involve senior citizens and encourage them to take part in voluntary activities – especially during the transition between work and retirement. They also support older senior citizens, offering assistance and counselling to enable them to live independently in familiar surroundings for longer. Close cooperation with regional care providers and Alzheimer’s societies helps dementia sufferers and those dependent on care, as well as their families, to obtain advice and support.

“Helping young people with their homework twice a week and being able to assist with maths exercises, give advice and share my rich experience, really helps me flourish. It does me good to know that I’m needed.” Gustav Meyer (67), Volunteer at the Multigeneration Centre Freilassing (Bayern)

Practical help with everyday life

Homecare services make it easier for people in various phases of life to deal with the challenges of home and work life. From gardeners to cleaners to drivers, Multigeneration Centres offer or can connect you with many quality-assured services, tailored to the needs of your local area.

“Homecare services offer many advantages: for example, giving workers more time to spend with their families. Volunteers can qualify themselves professionally and further develop their social competencies – which also provides an important opportunity for a return to employment.” Anke Merbach, Managing Director of the Multigeneration Centre Gotha (Thüringen)
Integrate, encourage, educate: Opportunities at Multigeneration Centres
Multigeneration Centres are places in which people can meet and learn from one another, regardless of age or background. With diverse educational and consulting services as well as language courses they also specifically encourage the integration of migrants, actively involving people of different backgrounds in the activities on offer and contributing to a harmonious intercultural exchange.

“Migrants are tightly integrated into the activities our Multigeneration Centre offers. They teach sewing courses, prepare lunches and engage with the people around them. This encourages not only a sense of community in the centre, but contributes to the general integration of everyone in the neighbourhood.” Heike Binne, Coordinator, Multigeneration Centre Bremen

A Hub for Volunteering
For those interested in volunteering, Multigeneration Centres provide a central meeting point as well as many opportunities to get involved. Interested parties of all ages will be advised and supported in their search for an appropriate activity and area. The centres complement and connect existing offerings and are recognised locations for those doing their Federal Voluntary Service. Helping others strengthens social competencies and can often provide the opportunity to gain a professional qualification – a first step for many in the direction of the job market.

“In the Multigeneration Centre unknown possibilities revealed themselves. Through my voluntary work I was able to think about my career and now even have a place to train as a home economist in the Multigeneration Centre!” Alexandra König (18), trainee, Multigeneration Centre Merzig (Saarland)
Open, engaged and generation-spanning – Multigeneration Centres

“Multigeneration Centres are innovative locations as well as hubs of social infrastructure. Here, people of all generations and stages of life come together, get involved, and are able to contribute their talents and abilities. The centres strengthen the cohesiveness of society and create important momentum for good community life. This provides lasting benefits not only to the participants, but to the community as well.”

Manuela Schwesig, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

450 Central Community Drop-in Centres

On 1 January 2012 the action programme Multigeneration Centres II of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth was launched. Each of the approximately 450 centres involved in the action programme received an annual grant of 40,000 euros in the three years from 2012 to 2014. Of this, 30,000 euros were supplied by the Federal Government and the European Social Fund. In 2016, as was the case in 2015, the Federal Government will provide the sum of 30,000 euros per Multigeneration Centre and, as in previous years, 10,000 euros will be provided by local councils or alternatively, state or district funds. You can find your nearest centre as well as how you can get involved at: www.mehrgenerationenhaeuser.de