

## German-Israeli Volunteer Service – The framework

### About the German-Israeli Volunteer Service

The German-Israeli Volunteer Service was founded in 2015 in the light of the 50 years anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Israel. The project was established as a cooperation between German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and the Israeli Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs. The Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany was appointed as the coordinating institution.

**"You're not a tourist - You're an ambassador"** That's the motto through which the German-Israeli Volunteer Service gives young citizens of both nations in the age of 18 to 27 the opportunity to explore the other country through 6-12 month volunteer service. In Germany, young Israelis of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds receive the possibility to gain experience in German institutions according to their interests, within and outside Jewish communities. In Israel, German volunteers will mainly engage in voluntary service in institutions for people with special needs. They can thereby strengthen the ties between both societies.

Volunteers taking part in the Program will fulfil two roles during and after their service: They on one hand dedicate their service to the field of common good.

On the other hand they act as civil ambassadors and through that transport an image of their home country into the other hosting society, without displaying their personal political opinion.

The program shall empower the volunteers to improve their social competence and cultural sensitivity through their everyday service as well as through the educational guidance provided by the ZWST and the Ministry of Welfare and Social Services.

### Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany

The Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany (ZWST) is the only Jewish Welfare organization in Germany. It has been founded in 1917. As a national union of Jewish welfare, the ZWST is the head organization of Jewish care in Germany, therefore supporting the Jewish communities in Germany in the field of social work and youth education. It has contributed to the successful integration of Jewish Russian immigrants into the Jewish communities and the German society within the last 25 years. Due to its leading role in the field of welfare and social care, the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizen, Women, and Youth has assigned the ZWST as coordinator of the German-Israeli Volunteer Service.

### Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs (Israel)

The Israeli Ministry of Social Affairs and Welfare Services is the official partner of conduct for the German- Israeli Volunteer Service in Israel. It is responsible for the selection and the preparation of the Israeli applicants prior to their service. It furthermore coordinates the voluntary service of the German volunteers in Israel.

### Federal Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Germany)

Through the Federal Voluntary Service and the International Youth Voluntary Service the German Federal Ministry provides the Financial Basis of the Project.

**10 reasons why volunteering in Germany could change your life:**

1. You.. are not a tourist.
2. You.. are an ambassador.
3. You.. embark on a new path, not just a journey.
4. You.. gain new perspectives.
5. You.. support people, who need you.
6. You.. get to know new things – and yourself.
7. You.. will take a lot of insights with you.
8. You.. start to understand more.
9. You.. are part of an official cooperation between Germany and Israel.
10. You.. are one out of them.

**What will be provided to Israeli volunteers?**

- Placement & food
- Pocket money
- Mentoring
- Health insurance
- Educational program

**What will be expected from Israeli volunteers?**

- Basic knowledge of German
- Very high level of English
- Experience in the field of social or educational work
- Flawless health record
- Responsibility
- Self-Confidence & high level of independence
- Complete military service or civil service

**Fields that offer volunteer service:**

