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Children and young people have a right to a high-quality education and to grow and develop in a nurturing environment. After all, they are the most important resource for ensuring society's future! Moreover, a democracy will only be resilient if its citizens are well educated and willing to get involved. The key to social participation is therefore an educational system that is both equitable and effective, one that introduces young people to political processes as early as possible and encourages their engagement.

The Bertelsmann Stiftung has long been committed to achieving this goal. This brochure provides a brief overview of our efforts in the area of youth and education: Through our projects and studies, we increase awareness among policy makers and the public regarding the need for reforms; in addition, we recommend feasible solutions for the challenges society faces.

The projects presented here have mostly been developed in a German context but are suitable for application in other political environments as well. In many cases, they have been adapted for use by international partners. More detailed information is available on each project's website as well as through the relevant project manager.