

### Short description

Volkssolidarität was founded in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) in October 1945 with the objective of relieving the social despair and misery resulting from the war. The association has a long tradition of social commitment on behalf of the elderly, chronically ill, those requiring nursing care, the socially disadvantaged as well as children and adolescents. Since its founding, solidarity has been the association's guiding principle.

As a social and charitable association, Volkssolidarität's current engagement comprises three areas of activities:

- a membership-based association with multifarious activities within the member, interest and self-help groups, supported by the voluntary social engagement of many members and employees;
- social services and facilities, social-cultural activities, social counseling as well as preventive medical care and
- social-political advocacy

Nationwide the structure includes 5 regional bodies (autonomous associations) organised in one federal association (about 200.000 members and 18.000 employees).

- With its approx. 20.000 members and 1.300 employees, Volkssolidarität Berlin e.V. is one of the largest social and charity associations in Berlin/Germany
- More than 2.100 volunteers – donating approx. 400.000 hours – create approx. 3.1 million Euros annually in net benefit for the community
- 1.500 Events for approx. 56.000 participants were organized in the association's 15 recreation centers and meeting places, as well as in its community centers for both youth and the elderly. Around 15.000 guests took part in the "Voyage under the Umbrella of Volkssolidarität."
- Overall 98 self-help-groups offer an important contribution to the self-determination of their participants
- Volkssolidarität Berlin's 7 home care-nursing services offers 700.000 visits per year
- 7 live-in and semi-live-in nursing facilities insure stable and quality standard social nursing care for more than 600 people. Volkssolidarität's 3 dementia apartments offer special treatment and housing for people with dementia
- 1.000 customers receive warm meals on wheels per month in out- and stationary surrounding with its mobile meal delivery service.
- Approx. 150 people have been accommodated in our 3 residential complexes of the "Living at Volkssolidarität" program.
- Another service, in terms of rapid home emergency aid, is the emergency alert

system apparatuses, used by more than 1.000 people

- Volkssolidarität is a sponsor of 7 day care centers for more than 1.300 children.

In several facilities, Volkssolidarität is offering counseling services ranging from general social advice to concrete professional and social counseling in the areas of elderly and medical assistance.

#### **Infrastructure and equipment relevant to the proposed work**

- Nursing homes and outpatient services
- Local Dementia Network
- Low-threshold services and activities for people with dementia
- Neighbourhood projects
- Counselling and support for caregivers

#### **Projects with relevance to the topic**

**Demnet-D** - Multicentric interdisciplinary evaluation of Dementia Care Networks in Germany aimed at determination of key success factors for the implementation of networks. (German Federal Ministry of Health)

**DfKL** - Dementia friendly community Lichtenberg: Networking and awareness raising campaign which aims at the provision of information and reduction of reservations towards people with dementia, as well as the creation of low-threshold activities which focus on social inclusion. Another objective of the project is the development of dementia care network structures through enabling and supporting systematic and mutual cooperation of relevant stakeholder organisations. (ESF-European Social Fund)

President of Volkssolidarität Berlin: Dr. Heidi Knake-Werner  
 Chief Executive Officer: André Lossin  
 Alfred-Jung-Str. 17, 10367 Berlin  
 Tel. +49 (0)30 3086920, Fax +49 (0)30 2792469  
 E-Mail: berlin@volkssolidaritaet.de  
 Volkssolidarität on the web: <http://www.volkssolidaritaet.de>