

GERMANY

Youth delegate programme



Existing since: 2005

Sending youth delegates to: The United Nations General Assembly, the Commission for Social Development, and the Commission on Sustainable Development

Call for applications: Early November

Number of youth delegates: 4 (Two youth delegates to the General Assembly who typically also participate in the Commission on Social Development (CSocD) and two delegates to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD))

Length of term: 1 year for the General Assembly. Youth delegates are selected in late January/early February. For the CSD, one youth delegate with a two year mandate is selected each year in August/September so that the German delegation always includes one experienced and one new youth delegate.

Criteria for applying:

- Between 18-25 years
- Fluency in English
- Experience with youth work is desirable
- Must be able to devote a considerable amount of time to youth delegate work.

Selection Process for the General Assembly

The selection process is organized by the German National Youth Council (DNK – Deutsches Nationalkomitee für internationale Jugendarbeit) together with the German United Nations Association (DGVN – Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Vereinten Nationen). In response to a call for applications, interested candidates submit a motivation letter and CV. Shortlisted candidates have two weeks to submit an essay on questions regarding youth topics discussed at the United Nations. The questions are typically taken from the toolkit for the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). Around twelve candidates are then selected for a telephone interview containing general questions in both German and English about the candidate, the candidate's motivation and his/her knowledge about the United Nations and the WPAY. Six candidates are selected for a two-day final selection process that takes place in Berlin.

The finals include interviews and role plays. The two youth delegates are then selected together with the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

Before the General Assembly

The youth delegates travel around the country to visit local youth initiatives, youth organizations, schools, universities, political parties, NGOs, Model United Nations Conferences, expert conferences, educational centers for disadvantaged youth, and other events where young people are present. The main aim of this tour is to have a comprehensive consultation process, which enables young people in Germany to voice their views and demands, as well as share information about their lives. Furthermore, the youth delegates inform youth in Germany about the work of the United Nations. During the tour, the youth delegates attend workshops, deliver speeches and take part in panel discussions. They also meet with the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the Federal Foreign Office to learn more about the work of these institutions and to establish contacts with their staff.

Contact with previous youth delegates is essential, and several days are spent with them in order to transfer knowledge. Furthermore, the youth delegates prepare by undertaking a great deal of background research. This includes reading resolutions, Reports of the Secretary-General and national position papers of youth organizations, and collecting the inputs from the national tour.

The youth delegates also attend a preparatory meeting for youth delegates organized by the European Youth Forum, and take part in online discussions with other youth delegates. During the last three years it has been common that the youth delegates take a six-month break from their studies/jobs in order to make the outcome of the programme as successful as possible.

At the General Assembly

The German youth delegates are advisers to their national delegation. In their personal capacity, they deliver a speech to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on behalf of German youth, and attend informal consultations on resolutions concerning youth. Furthermore, they arrange side events at the German Mission and take part in various meetings. The youth delegates usually attend the General Assembly for three weeks. The youth delegates to the General Assembly typically also participate in the Commission on Social Development (CSocD), which takes place in the beginning of February.

When returning home

When returning home, the youth delegates report back to the national Parliament about the outcome of the General Assembly and what actions should be taken in the national context when it comes to youth policies. The youth delegates also report back to the National Youth Council and its member organizations as well as to the German UN Association. Finally they also go through an extensive knowledge transfer process with the youth delegates of the subsequent year.

Funding

The trip and accommodation for the final stage of the selection process is covered by the German National Committee for International Youth Work (DNK) and the German United Nations Association (DGVN). During the national tour, the inviting organizations cover the travel expenses and accommodation if necessary. Apart from that the German youth delegates fundraise for special activities and events. Participation in the preparatory meeting of youth delegates organized by the European Youth Forum is covered by the National Youth Council and the European Youth Forum. The trip and accommodation for the youth delegates during the General Assembly is covered by the DNK and DGVN.

German youth delegates to the Commission on Sustainable Development

The CSD youth delegate programme is run by the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR), with strong support from the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. After a call for applications that takes place in late summer, interested candidates submit their motivation letter and CV to the DBJR. Shortlisted candidates are invited for a personal interview and, based on these interviews the youth delegates are selected. The CSD youth delegates usually do not conduct a nationwide tour before the CSD, but are instead responsible for keeping in contact with all youth organizations around Germany to include their inputs in formulating a joint German youth position for the discussions at the CSD.

While at the CSD, the German youth delegates are part of the official delegation as well as members of the Major Group "Children and Youth".

When returning home the youth delegates undertake a national tour during the summer together with the youth delegates to the General Assembly to discuss the topics at the CSD with youth around the country.

The youth delegates normally attend CSD for two weeks and are funded by the Ministry of Environment. In recent years, the German Government has also funded the participation of two African youth delegates at CSD.

Contact

To learn more about the selection process and the German youth delegate programme please visit www.jugenddelegierte.de