

Factsheet Youth Rep

What is Youth Rep?

Youth Rep is a project run by the Swiss National Youth Council (SNYC), in cooperation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) to encourage youth participation at the UN and to raise awareness among young people in Switzerland about UN issues.

What are the goals and visions of the Youth Rep project?

As the voice of Swiss youth, young Swiss people actively influence the work of the UN, educate Swiss youth in this area, and thus contribute to shaping a peaceful and sustainable future.

How is the project implemented?

Every year, a team of three young people, known as “Youth Reps”, is selected by the SNYC in a transparent recruitment process. They thus have the legitimacy of the nearly 80 member associations and their 500,000 young members. During the first year, the Youth Reps are supported and accompanied by the SNYC and the FDFA and can participate in a UN conference (e.g. UN General Assembly in New York) as part of the Swiss delegation. There, they can put forward young people’s concerns and gain experience. The three Youth Reps then pass on this experience to young people in Switzerland by carrying out awareness-raising activities (e.g. school bus tour or UN boat). During the second year, the Youth Reps are available to advise their successors.

How long has Youth Rep been around?

Switzerland has been a member of the United Nations since 2002. In 2003, the SNYC submitted a project proposal to the FDFA on youth participation in the UN, which was accepted thanks to the support of Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey. Since 2003, more than 20 young people have been active as Youth Reps.

More informations

www.youthrep.ch, www.sajv.ch

Support

The project has been under the patronage of Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey since the beginning of 2008 and is supported by the Mercator Switzerland Foundation and the Symphasis Foundation, Zurich

