

The United Nations Youth Association Germany





The United Nations Youth Association Germany

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I. About the United Nations Youth Association Germany (UNYA Germany)

The United Nations Youth Association Germany- UNYA Germany ("Junges UNO-Netzwerk Deutschland" – abbreviation: "JUNON") is an umbrella organisation of German UN University Clubs, Model United Nations Initiatives, school and university delegations to international Model UN conferences, UN Youth Campaign Groups, groups of young UN researchers and the like. The Association was founded in December 2005 and became a registered not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation in January 2007. It is open for membership both to university and school groups, regardless of whether they are registered or informal organisations. Twenty-five UN Youth Groups have joined UNYA Germany so far; the number is likely to rise further in the future. This presentation gives an overview over the Association and its activities.



1. Aims of UNYA Germany

According to its constitution the aims of UNYA Germany are education and the promotion of international understanding and cooperation. These aims are realised by networking and cooperation between its member organisations, encouraging enthusiasm of young people for the United Nations, spreading knowledge about this international organisation and strengthening the commitment for the idea of the United Nations. Thereby UNYA Germany promotes international understanding and cooperation, as well as the aims of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. Creation of UNYA Germany

The inception of UNYA Germany was a "bottom-up" movement, i.e. the large number of UN Youth Groups to be found in Germany today came into existence long before the umbrella organisation was born. It must be pointed out that the enthusiasm of young people for the United Nations has experienced a dramatic rise in Germany over the past 20 years. This enthusiasm, unprecedented in modern German history, can be attributed largely to three factors: (1) the spreading of Model United Nations Initiatives, (2) more recently the Millennium Campaign and (3) the National Tour of the German Youth Delegates to the UN General Assembly. Among these factors, the spreading of Model United Nations must be emphasized.



(Constitutive Meeting of UNYA Germany, December 2005)

The idea of Model United Nations was first born in the USA and spread to Europe in the 1950s. In the 1980s and 1990s young Germans started increasingly to participate in these simulations, by sending school and university delegations to international Model United Nations Conferences outside of Germany. The idea of participating in such conferences spread in Germany by word of mouth from school to school, from university to university. For German universities the most attractive conference became and still remains to be the National Model United Nations Conference (NMUN), hosted by the National Collegiate Conference Association in the USA. An ever rising number of German universities send delegations to New York each year, currently up to 30. On the other hand, the focus of German school delegations is The Hague

International Model United Nations Conference (THIMUN) in the Netherlands.

When attempting to understand the reasons for the dramatic development of UN Youth Groups within Germany over the past twenty years, the importance of these school and university delegations to international Model United Nations conferences cannot be overestimated. After lengthy and careful preparation of and successful participation in these conferences, many delegations returned home to Germany with the feeling that "this cannot be where it ends". Out of this feeling arose the idea of creating own UN youth projects, either by organising a local Model UN conference or by founding a local UN Youth Club with projects such as lectures, campaigns and exhibitions about the UN. These local initiatives in turn brought a large number of young people within the country to become interested in the United Nations. To this day, Model UN Conferences, both local, regional and international remain to be an important catalyst for young UN enthusiasm in Germany.

The creation of the United Nations Youth Association Germany in 2005 was spearheaded by a group of university students who had two main aims: (1) encouraging the UN Youth Groups to network in order to exchange experiences, capacities and materials and thereby helping each other in their work and (2) joining up the vast pool of UN Youth Groups in order to come up with new, nation-wide UN youth projects that were to "move beyond" Model United Nations, one proposal being the support of the National Tour of the German UN Youth Delegates. The constitutive meeting was attended by delegates from 12 UN Youth Groups from across Germany. The participants quickly realised that while everybody agreed with the networking aspect, the ideas for national projects that could be conducted by such a network of UN Youth Groups were numerous. It is for this reason that the concept of working groups was developed, as they enabled the new network to accommodate for all the different interests.

3. Structure of UNYA Germany

One of the most important questions the new Association needed to decide on was whether to make the Association based on individual or on organisational membership. The general consideration was that youth organisations such as UNYA Germany face two main challenges with regard to sustainability: (1) their existence depends entirely on voluntary work, and (2) their members change all the time, because the average amount of time that pupils and university students can be active in such organisations is two years or even less. UNYA Germany would therefore be required constantly to recruit enthusiastic individuals, pass on enthusiasm and knowledge, and make sure that positions be handed over diligently to "the next generation". If this were not done successfully just one year, then Association would run the risk of withering away. For this reason UNYA Germany chose to base its membership on organisations rather than individuals. The founders considered that sustainability is easier to be achieved when there is a large pool of potentially active

members, as it is unlikely that all the member organisations lose interest in activity at the same time. It must be noted of course, that this was only possible because they found themselves in the lucky situation of having many UN youth groups already available to them.

However, the young Association also considered that it would face a very particular challenge: people generally have the interests of their own, local organisation more closely at heart than the interests of the umbrella association. Two main reasons for this were discussed: (1) The contact with the local organisation is much closer in that the individuals members can have face-to-face meetings whenever they wish, whereas real-life meetings with the members of the national association may be limited due to financial reasons. (2) The influence and ability of an individual to make decisions in his/her local organisation is likely to be greater than in the national association, where the differing interests of a large number of member organisations need to be reconciled. In order to meet these challenges UNYA Germany spent a lot of time working out a mode of regular meetings and a decision-making process by which influence is accorded to a large pool of people (the Assembly of Delegates) rather than to a small group (the Board).

4. Meetings of UNYA Germany



(Spokespersons of UNYA German chairing an Assembly of Delegates)

The UNYA's member organisations meet every three months by sending one or more delegates to the "Assembly of Delegates", which usually takes place on a weekend. Attendance fluctuates between approximately 25 to 50 delegates. Delegates living in close proximity to

each other usually share cars or travel on group train tickets to keep travel costs low. Each Assembly is hosted by one of the member organisations. In order to reduce costs, the location is usually a university classroom, a conference room in a youth hostel or the like. The member

organisations pay a membership fee of € 40 per year and UNA Germany provides the UNYA with € 200 for each Assembly to help with the funding. Since November 2007, some of the delegates arrive earlier to participate in seminars, which the member organisations of UNYA Germany have started to conduct for each other, in order to share their knowledge about conducting local projects. The seminars take place on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

The official Assembly of Delegates, chaired by the spokespersons of the Association, starts on Saturday afternoon with a plenary discussion. The various working groups report on their activities of the past three months, the spokespersons report on organisational matters. The day usually ends in the local bars and nightclubs. Most delegates sleep in the local youth hostel. On Sunday morning the working groups meet in order to discuss their plans for the upcoming three months and then report back to the plenary. The delegates usually order Pizza or the like for lunch. On Sunday afternoon the Assembly discusses and votes on motions dealing with organisational matters as well as motions to set up or terminate working groups or to begin with or terminate projects within the working groups. The Assembly ends on Sunday at around 16:00 pm as some of the delegates have quite long journeys home.



(UNYA Delegates relaxing after a hard day of work)

5. Decision-Making Processes

The Assembly of Delegates is the central decision-making body of UNYA Germany. The quarterly meetings of the Assembly can thus be said to be working meetings as well as decision-making meetings. The Assembly carries out all the activities of the Association, takes all political and project-related decisions and establishes or terminates working groups and projects conducted by the working groups. If the necessity arises to make decisions in between meetings, this is done via an online voting procedure which runs via an internal communication platform. The founders of UNYA Germany estimated that the greater the possibility of member organisations of participating in decision-making, the higher their commitment to the Association would be. For this reason the constitution aims at according all influence to the Assembly instead of the Board, thereby motivating a much larger number of people to become actively involved.

The Board is elected by the Assembly for one year and consists of two spokespersons. Individuals up to age 28 who are delegated by one of the member organisations can run for the positions. The main duties of the spokespersons are preparing and chairing the Assemblies, compiling a quarterly newsletter, supporting the working groups and representing the UNYA in public. In December 2007 UNYA Germany signed an Agreement of Cooperation with the United Nations Association Germany (UNA Germany). Since then, the spokespersons of UNYA Germany are permanent guests at the two-monthly meetings of the National Board of UNA Germany, where they represent the UNYA. When representing the Association, the spokespersons are bound to the directives of the Assembly of Delegates. They can therefore not take substantial decisions without prior consultation with the Assembly.

6. Partners of UNYA Germany



(Agreement of Cooperation between the UNYA and UNA Germany, December 2007)

UNYA Germany has local, national and international partners. The local partners of the Association are its 25 member organisations, the number rising continually. The national partner of UNYA Germany is the United Nations Association of Germany (UNA). While the UNYA is an organisation established in its own right and independent of the UNA, it has recently signed an Agreement of Cooperation with the UNA, setting out forms of future cooperation between the two associations. On an international level, UNYA Germany is a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations- Youth (WFUNA-Youth) since 2006.

7. Funding

At the moment the member organisations of UNYA Germany pay a membership fee of € 40 per year, which can be waived by the Assembly for members in financial difficulty. UNA Germany supports the UNYA with € 800 per year to co-fund the Assemblies. UNA Germany also pays the travel and accommodation costs of the spokespersons and heads of working groups attending the meetings of the UNA's National Board and issues additional travel and accommodation grants on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the Agreement of Cooperation. Wherever UNYA Germany needs funding for its projects, the Association writes funding applications to external foundations. In the past these have been the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Apfelbaum Foundation.

II. Activities of UNYA Germany

The decision to establish or terminate a working group or a project within a working group is taken by the Assembly of Delegates. The member organisations have different policies with regard to the voting behaviour of the delegates they send to the UNYA's quarterly Assembly. Some delegates are subject to the directives of their organisation, whereas others have freedom of action. In order to accommodate for those delegates subject to the directives of their organisations, the initiators of a new working group or project send a project plan to the whole Association three weeks prior to an Assembly, so that the member organisations have the opportunity to formulate their positions.



(Meeting of the UNYA Working Group "Research and Teaching")

Once a working group has been established by the Assembly, individual members of the UNYA's member organisations are invited to join it. The eight working groups currently at work are Participation, UN Research and Teaching, UNESCO, UN Study Tour New York, Capacity and Materials Exchange (Comax), Model United Nations, Young Approach and International Cooperations. Each working group has approximately three to ten individual members, coming from different member organisations. In all, between 30 and 50 individuals are active in the working groups of UNYA Germany. The main activity of the working groups takes place in between Assemblies. The members of the working groups communicate mainly via the UNYA's internal communication platform, emails and telephone conferences. They meet face-to-face during the Assemblies of Delegates, where they evaluate their work of the past three months and plan their actions for the upcoming months.

Short descriptions of the working groups are depicted below. UNYA Germany is more than willing to provide more information about its work to other UNYAs, UNAs or interested individuals. Contact details can be found at the end of this presentation.

1. Working Group “Model United Nations”



(Model UN Conference of one of the UNYA's member organisations, MUN Schleswig-Holstein)

Aims

According to its constitution, one of the main aims of UNYA Germany is to spread knowledge about the United Nations among young people in Germany. The Association estimates that the UN is in particular need of public support because most of its instruments rely on “soft power”. However, the UN system is so complex as to make it difficult for outsiders to grasp, particularly young persons. One of the solutions to this dilemma can be the spreading of Model United Nations. In Germany, a vast portion of youth interest in the United Nations is first established when modelling sessions of UN bodies. The simulations allow a first understanding of and enthusiasm for the United Nations, in that they make complex, international decision-making processes easily accessible.

The aim of UNYA Germany's working group “Model United Nations” is thus to spread and strengthen local Model UN activities all over Germany. This has a two-way benefit for the Association. On the one hand, more Model UN means more youth support for the UN as such, which meets the overall aim of the Association. On the other hand, Model UN has high intrinsic value for the work of UNYA Germany. The

simulations form a highly important basis for the activities of the Association in that many young people, whose interest in the UN was first sparked through Model UN, go on to become active in the member organisations or in the national projects of UNYA Germany. Model UN is thus a vital basis for the work of the Association.

Projects

In order to achieve its aim of spreading and strengthening Model UN, the working group "Model United Nations" raises awareness of the importance of Model UN and offers practical support and advice to its member organisations as well as other newly founded Model UN initiatives, especially on the school level.

- **Handbook "Chairing Model United Nations"**

Chairing remains to be one of the greatest challenges for the organising teams of new or fairly inexperienced Model United Nations conferences. In 2007 the working group co-authored a handbook that offers a comprehensive guideline to chairing UN bodies during simulations. The handbook is an endeavour to create a written source, revealing the "secrets" of chairing Model UN. The handbook is to enable young persons having participated in at least one Model UN conference to become chairs themselves. The possibility of chairing in Germany is thus no longer limited to a mere handful of experienced people. The handbook can be downloaded from the website of UNYA Germany. The guideline is in English language, whereas the explanations are in German.

- **Chair Pool**

In order to provide newly founded or fairly inexperienced Model UN initiatives with as much support as possible, the working group is currently establishing a countrywide database of chairing "old stagers" who are willing to assist chairing "rookies" in other organisations.

- **School MUN Pamphlet**

The working group has designed and distributed a pamphlet about the seven German Model UN conferences existing on the school level, inviting school pupils to participate in the conference of their region. The pamphlet can be downloaded from the website of UNYA Germany.

- **National MUN Calendar**

The working group is currently working on a national MUN calendar, which is to depict all Model UN conferences taking place at school and university level throughout the year. The calendar is to assist organising teams in coordinating their dates with each other and help participants in planning their annual engagement.

- **MiniMUN at “Summer 08” Event**

The most recent project of the working group is to conduct a small Model UN conference at a national youth event, “Summer 08”, in Berlin. The “MiniMUN” is to introduce new target groups of young people to Model UN.

2. Working Group “Research and Teaching”



(Lecture at the University of Karlsruhe)

Aims

Some of UNYA Germany’s member organisations are closely connected with the academia in that their individual members become involved in the organisation’s projects in pursuance of their academic interest in the UN, or vice versa. UNYA Germany established a working group “UN Research and Teaching” in order to enhance this academic interest of university students in the field of UN studies and in order to promote scientific UN research. To this end, the working group cooperates closely with academics, in particular the Research Council of UNA Germany.

Projects

- **UN Research and Teaching Survey**

The working group began with an extensive evaluation project, which reviewed the given situation regarding German research and education in the UN field. The survey focused on 15 universities, identifying 27 professorships which conduct UN-related research in the domains of Political Science, Law and Economics. The survey also gave attention to UN University Clubs and MUN groups contributing to the academic interest of students in the UN. The results of the survey were presented at a conference hosted by the Research Council of UNA Germany in 2006, dealing with the issue of "UN Studies". The results will be published in the conference proceedings of the Research Council.

- **Study on UN scholarship among university students**

Pursuant to its aim of acting at the interface between student commitment and scientific engagement in the UN field, the working group is currently setting up an evaluation of UN scholarship among university students. Within a period of ten years the working group will survey alumni whose final theses lie in the field of UN research. Interviews with these graduates will be based on guidelines of qualitative social research. The study analyses the multiple facets of the research process. The working group attempts to understand the authors' motivations, learn more about the writing process and also discover possible career consequences of writing a thesis in the UN field, by re-viewing the post-exam period. With the results at hand, the working group hopes to raise the interest in the issue of improving UN Scholarship among the academia itself and hopes to help develop new ways of evoking scientific interest in the United Nations among university students and young academics. With the help of the study UNYA Germany also hopes to provide interested students with information and advice on the issue of UN research.

3. Working Group “Participation”

Aims

With its working group “Participation” UNYA Germany aims at enabling German youth to actively participate in UN decision-making processes through the German Youth Delegates to the UN General Assembly. Before formulating their position for the General Assembly on behalf of the German youth, the Youth Delegates go on an extensive National Tour through Germany, collecting the viewpoints and opinions of thousands of young people on the UN agenda issues. The working group “Participation” contributes to the National Tour of the UN Youth Delegates by helping the UNYA member organisations to host tour stops. By taking part in this process of policy formulation, UNYA Germany is directly involved in the work of the United Nations, particularly in the field of youth action and youth promotion.

Also, the National Tour constitutes the second major means of reaching out to a large number of young people in Germany and getting them interested in the United Nations, next to Model United Nations. UNYA Germany regards direct engagement in the National Tour as a vital part of its work and as a broadening of its range of activities.



(Marah Köberle and Jonathan Mack, German Youth Delegates to the UN General Assembly 2007)

Please note: The German UN Youth Delegate Programme was established by UNA Germany a few months before UNYA Germany was founded. For more information about the programme as such please refer to the presentation "Youth Work of the United Nations Association of Germany".

Projects

Every working group in UNYA Germany is coordinated by one or two member organisations. In the case of the working group "Participation" this is the Youth Delegate Team, which is a member organisation situated in Berlin and fully devoted to supporting the German UN Youth Delegates.

- **Helping member organisations to host tour stops on the National Tour of the Youth Delegates**

The main aim of the working group is to make it as easy as possible for its member organisations to host tour stops on the National Tour of the Youth Delegates. Each tour stop addresses a certain issue such as youth and the environment, youth and health or youth and employment and is composed of two units: The tour stop commences with lectures by guest speakers on the issue of the tour stop or on the UN World Programme of Action for Youth and continues with workshops, where the participants, coming from schools, universities and youth organisations, have the opportunity to voice their opinions and suggestions. The results of these workshops are then handed over to the Youth Delegates, who include them in their position at the General Assembly. UNYA Germany is currently encouraging more of its member organisations to host tour stops, which can also take different forms such as invitations to the Youth Delegates to speak at Model UN conferences. In the past years, the working group "Participation" has come up with several tools to help its member organisations host tour stops:

National Tour Handbook

The working group has published a comprehensive handbook on how to host a tour stop.

Train-the-Trainers Seminar

In the beginning of each year, UNYA Germany holds a "Train-the-Trainers" seminar for those member organisations wishing to host a tour stop, where the members share their experience and knowledge about fundraising, public relations and general organisational aspects. The National Tour is a project where the member organisations are involved as a whole, not merely represented by delegates and working group members. The Train-the-Trainers therefore also has intrinsic value for UNYA Germany, in that it helps its member organisations bond with each other.

Joint Fundraising Application

In the programme year 2008 UNYA Germany hand in a joint fundraising application to an external foundation for the first time to fund each tour stop with an approximate € 500

- **National Selection Procedure**

The second task of the working group "Participation" is to help the patrons of the UN Youth Delegate Programme with the annual national selection procedure, coming up with the two Youth Delegates for the following year. Members of the working group participate in the written selection procedure, telephone interviews, and an assesment centre.

4. Working Group "UNESCO"



Aims

The establishment of the working group UNESCO goes back to the first UN Youth Conference hosted by UNA Germany in January 2007. One of the guest speakers was the Secretary-General of the German Commission for UNESCO (DUK), which advises the German Federal Government on the position to be taken up within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The Secretary-General expressed his regret about the lack of young, creative input to his organisation. The spokespersons of UNYA Germany followed up on the issue at a private meeting with him after the conference. In result, the UNYA established its working group UNESCO, cooperating with the DUK with the aim of enabling youth participation in the German government's policies within UNESCO.

Projects

- **Position Paper at the World Heritage Conference**

Soon afterwards, the DUK commissioned UNYA Germany with the creation of a position paper, formulating youth perspectives on the fields of education, science and culture for the UNESCO World Heritage Conference. The working group "UNESCO" participated in the conference in Lübeck, Germany from 13 to 14 June 2007, where it was able to put forward its position paper regarding the issues on the floor. The paper contributed to the resolutions adopted at the conference. In the future, UNYA Germany hopes to establish a long-term partnership with the German Commission for UNESCO, which is now eager to increase young people's input to their work.

- **Outlook: Collaboration with the working group "Participation"**

Future prospects for the working group are a collaboration with the working group "Participation", aiming at including some of the German UNESCO Schools in the National Tour of the UN Youth Delegates.

5. Working Group "Young Approach"

Aims

One of the founding member organisations of UNYA Germany, "Young Approach", has dedicated itself to promoting active youth participation in one of the United Nations major fields of action: development cooperation. The incorporation of the work of Young Approach into UNYA Germany expresses the Association's will to actively engage in furthering youth participation outside of Germany and to contribute to practical aspects of UN development cooperation.

Project

Young Approach focuses its work on three refugee camps run by the United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), situated in and around the capital of Jordan, Amman. In autumn 2008, the members of the working group will go on a six-month trip to Amman, working with young Palestinian refugees in the targeted UNRWA camps. The aim of the working group is to find out how youth can better be recognised as a target group as well as an actor of UNRWA development cooperation. To this end, UNYA Germany has entrusted Young Approach to come into contact with youths, parents and teachers and to initiate small youth projects in the refugee camps, cooperating with university students in Amman who originate from the refugee camps.



While UNRWA operates in four different areas (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza), all education facilities are managed from its headquarters in Amman. In order to achieve the best possible cooperation with UNRWA, the team will be assisted by two German interns at the office of the UNRWA Director of Education for the duration of their stay in Jordan. The trip will be concluded with a report on the outcomes and experiences of the working group. After its evaluation UNYA Germany will consider whether to send follow-up groups to the refugee camps to continue the work.

6. Working Group “UN Study Tour New York”



*(UN Headquarters, New York;
United Nations Photo)*

Aims

The working group “UN Study Tour New York” aims at establishing UNYA Germany as a service-provider to the large number of German delegations participating in the annual National Model United Nations Conference (NMNU) in New York, starting in spring of 2008. By organising a study trip to the UN headquarters, UNYA Germany would like to reach out to the delegations and offer them an opportunity that goes beyond mere participation in the NMUN conference. On the other hand, the UNYA itself can benefit by making extensive contact with a large number of UN officials and by establishing a cooperation with the German Permanent Mission to the UN.

Project

The working group is currently organising a series of briefings with young German UN officials as well as diplomats at the Permanent Mission. The briefings are to go beyond superficial lectures about the UN, but rather give the German NMUN delegations an in-depth insight into the day-to-day work of UN officials and diplomats. Furthermore, the delegates are to learn about internship and job opportunities at the respective institutions.

7. Working Group “Competence and Materials Exchange” (Comax)

Aims

The working group Competence and Materials Exchange (Comax) was recently established in order to strengthen the UNYA’s networking character. The member organisations of UNYA Germany engage in a large variety of local projects, such as Model UN Conferences, organising UN lecture series, hosting UN exhibitions, engaging in UN campaigns, coordinating UN school projects, conducting UN research projects, organising study trips to the UN and the like. Comax aims at collecting materials such as project plans, project reports and handbooks and at exchanging and sharing knowledge, experience and skills, making them available to all member organisations.

Project

The working group is currently working on the establishment of an online “Comax Pool” that will enable the UNYA’s member organizations to get in touch with each other when they are in need of inspiration and support with a specific issue or project. The working group is currently collecting project materials as well as profiles of individuals willing to participate in the knowledge and skills sharing.

III. Member Organisations of UNYA Germany



UNYA Germany is open for membership to "groups of young people in Germany committed to the United Nations", which entails both university and school groups, regardless of whether they are registered or informal organisations. Twenty-five of these UN Youth Groups have joined the Association so far. The majority of organisations were originally founded with the main purpose of continually sending delegations to international Model UN conferences or hosting Model UN conferences within Germany. Most of the conferences hosted by the UNYA's member organisations are held in English language. Five of them are school conferences, of which three are held in German language.

Moving beyond Model UN, the majority of member organisations has begun to engage in other UN youth-related projects in recent years and a small number of member organisations has never been involved in Model UN at all. The projects entail organising UN lecture series, hosting UN exhibitions, engaging in UN campaigns, coordinating UN school projects, conducting UN research projects, organising study trips to the UN, hosting tour stops on the National Tour of the German UN Youth Delegates and the like. Both schools and universities are targeted with these projects.

The main directions of study among the members of the university groups are Law and Political Science. The numbers of individual members of UNYA Germany's member organisations differ greatly. It can be said however that the number of members actively conducting projects is generally not larger than twenty. In all, the number of

young people reached by the projects in Germany each year amounts to several thousands. The twenty-five member organisations of the UNYA come from nine different States:

Baden- Württemberg

[Club of Hohenheim](#),
[International Law Campaign, Heidelberg](#)
[German Model United Nations \(DMUN\), Konstanz](#)
[forUN Freiburg](#)
[Model United Nations Baden-Württemberg \(MUNBW\), Stuttgart](#)
[UN University Club Tübingen \(UNHSG\)](#)

Bavaria

[Model United Nations Society Passau](#)
[Model United Nations Project Group of the Ludwigs-Maximilians-University Munich](#)
[UNA of the Julius-Maximilian-University Würzburg](#)

Brandenburg

[ViaMUN/UN University Club Frankfurt \(Oder\)](#)
[Young Approach, Potsdam](#)

Berlin

[JGW Project Group NMUN](#)
[Youth Delegate Team, Berlin](#)
[UN University Club of the UNA Regional Branch Berlin-Brandenburg](#)

Hessen

[United Nations Society Marburg](#)

Lower Saxony

[Model United Nations Society Göttingen](#)
[Osnabrück Model United Nations \(OsnamUN\)](#)
[Oldenburg Model United Nations \(OLMUN\)](#)

North Rhine-Westphalia

[BIMUN/SINUB e.V., Bonn](#)
[Model United Nations Society Düsseldorf](#)
[Münster University International Model United Nations \(MUI MUN\)](#)
[Student Model United Nations \(SPUN\), Bonn](#)

Saxony

[UN Project Group Leipzig](#)

Schleswig-Holstein

[Model United Nations of Lübeck \(MUNOL\)](#)
[Model United Nations Schleswig-Holstein \(MUN-SH\), Kiel](#)

IV. International Cooperations of UNYA Germany

1. Aims of International Cooperation

As a fairly young organisation UNYA Germany hopes to further develop its working processes, expand its working groups and projects and strengthen its partnerships in the next few years. In order to achieve this, the association considers the sharing of knowledge and best practices with other UNYAs and UNA Youth Sections very valuable. For this reason UNYA Germany became a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations- Youth (WFUNA-Youth).

Furthermore, UNYA Germany decided in 2007 to aim at conducting international projects in cooperation with other UNYAs and UNA Youth Sections. It was important to the UNYA that such projects move beyond networking as such. If a project were to be taken to the international level by the UNYA, this must be because it could actually be better realised on the international level than on the national level. The Association subsequently developed a project plan for such a project, entitled the Making Commitments Matter Initiative (MCM). The involvement of UNYA Germany both in WFUNA-Youth and MCM are coordinated by the working group "International Cooperation".

2. Forms of International Cooperation

WFUNA-Youth

On an institutional level, UNYA Germany is a member organisation of the World Federation of United Nations Associations- Youth (WFUNA-Youth) since 2006. UNYA Germany has been accorded full powers by UNA Germany to participate in WFUNA-Youth as the official German UN Youth Association, in accordance with the WFUNA-Youth Rules of Procedure. The representative of UNYA Germany at the Plenary Meeting in Buenos Aires, Dania Röpke, was elected member of the Coordinating Committee of WFUNA-Youth until 2009. Dania was engaged in the first WFUNA-Youth Capacity Building Workshop on Project Organisation held in May 2007 in Barcelona in cooperation with UNA Spain. She is also one of the authors of the WFUNA-Youth UNYA Project Management Handbook.

The Rules of Procedure of WFUNA-Youth and more information about the organisation can be found at www.wfuna-youth.org.



(Coordinating Committee of WFUNA-Youth)

Making Commitments Matter Initiative

Together with UNA Germany, UNYA Germany recently brought into being an 18-month students initiative working across countries for a better implementation of UN agreements. In the spirit of its aims, the Initiative is entitled "Making Commitments Matter" (MCM). A call for applications was issued by UNA Germany in autumn 2007. UNYA Germany participated in the selection procedure and is the host of the constitutive conference of the Initiative, together with one of its member organisations, Bonn International Model United Nations (BIMUN) and UNA Germany. Furthermore, the working group "International Cooperation" has decided to support the two German members of the Initiative, Andreas Kehrbach and Marian Sutholt for the duration of the 18 months they will be at work.

More information about the Initiative can be found at www.un-commitments.org

V. Contacts and Website of UNYA Germany

UNYA Germany considers the sharing of knowledge and best practices with other UNYAs and UNA Youth Sections as well as other interested individuals very valuable. The Association is more than willing to provide more information about its work. The contact details of the Association's working groups are as follows:

Working Group	Email Address
Model United Nations	ag-mun@junges-uno-netzwerk.de
Research and Teaching	ag-forschung-lehre@junges-uno-netzwerk.de
Participation	ag-partizipation@junges-uno-netzwerk.de
UNESCO	ag-unesco@junges-uno-netzwerk.de
Young Approach	youngapproach@junges-uno-netzwerk.de
UN Study Tour New York	studytour@junges-uno-netzwerk.de
Competence and Material Exchange	<i>via UNYA Spokespersons:</i> sprecher@junges-uno-netzwerk.de
International Cooperation	ag-internationales@junges-uno-netzwerk.de



If you would like to receive more information about UNYA Germany as such or if you have difficulty reaching the working groups please do not hesitate to contact the spokespersons of the Association via sprecher@junges-uno-netzwerk.de

For more information about the founding process of UNYA Germany you are welcome to contact Astrid van der Merwe, co-founder of the Association and youngest member of the National Board of UNA Germany via astrid.vandermerwe@un-commitments.org

Should you ever have difficulty in reaching the above-mentioned persons please feel free to contact the Youth Consultant of UNA Germany via jugendreferat@dgvn.de or at +49-30-259375-26, who will then forward your request.

The English website of UNYA Germany can be found at <http://www.unya.de>