



## South project

Today's development goals cannot be reached without the contribution of youth. It is indisputable that youth possess an enormous transformational ability when they are involved and able to participate in shaping society. Through future prospects and chances for development of young people, a dynamic process forms from which the state as well as the global community as a whole can profit. This generation of young people has the power to create new opportunities for itself, to anchor the rule of law and democracy as important values in society and to break through old conflict dynamics.

This is where South project comes in. The goal of this project is to develop youth participation in the south, to sensitize Swiss youth to development cooperation and to support youth in the South and in the north in the realization of their own project ideas. The project is carried out by the Swiss National Youth Council (SNYC) and financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The project will begin a pilot phase of three years in the beginning of 2009.

Youth participation in the field of development cooperation is fostered in three ways:

### 1. Funding of youth projects in the south

The fund provides Swiss youth associations with facilitated access to funding possibilities for small-scale projects carried out in partnership with youth organizations in the south. The projects are aimed at encouraging youth to take active part in shaping society and at empowering them as individuals with rights.

SNYC supports youth projects with a maximum contribution of 15'000 Swiss francs. The following criteria must be fulfilled:

- Thematic focus: Youth initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through the following content: improvement of educational opportunities and access to work, gender and violence prevention, conflict prevention and transformation, promotion of human rights, health projects and HIV/Aids prevention, awareness raising and education in environmental protection and climate change, use of ICTs for development and migration
- Methodical approach: Train-the-trainers(multipliers), awareness-raising seminars and campaigns (peer group education), intercultural exchange of youth and strengthening of national youth councils and local youth organizations (institution building/capacity building)
- Geographical orientation: Partner organization and implementation in a SDC focus country: Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Chad, Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Nicaragua/Central America, Cuba, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam/Mekong, Mongolia and West Bank/Gaza

## 2. Capacity building in Swiss youth organizations

Educational modules make it possible for youth organizations in Switzerland to strengthen their abilities and knowledge in the field of development cooperation, to exchange experiences and to build a wider network. SNYC organizes three events every year:

- A continuing education seminar on a current youth topic relevant to development policy
- Two youth roundtables to enable experience exchange and networking

These events are also open to specialists from the field of development cooperation. Dates and up-to-date information can be found on the website [www.youthfordevelopment.ch/sud](http://www.youthfordevelopment.ch/sud).

In addition, SNYC places its network as well as individual project consulting and coaching at the disposal of petitioning youth organizations.

## 3. Strengthening of networks and know-how exchange on umbrella organization level

As an umbrella organization, SNYC possesses extensive experience and wide organizational knowledge. Through exchanges, this knowledge can flow systematically into existing youth networks in the south and can contribute to the continuing development and strengthening of these organizations. In this way, young leaders from the south and from Switzerland can mutually benefit from each other's experiences and build cooperational networks. Gathered knowledge is then brought back into respective organizations/national youth councils through events and can help strengthen the participation of youth in the south and in Switzerland.

The following activities are used to this end:

- 3 practical trainings for young leaders from the south (Africa, Asia and Latin America) for two months each at SNYC and at a member organization
- 3 practical trainings for young leaders from Switzerland in umbrella organizations in the south (Africa, Asia and Latin America) for two months each
- Participation of 3 young leaders from Switzerland at continental youth network events

For details and the announcement, please consult the website [www.youthfordevelopment.ch](http://www.youthfordevelopment.ch) or contact us.

### More Information

[www.youthfordevelopment.ch](http://www.youthfordevelopment.ch): This website also contains information on **East project** (advancement of youth participation in Southeast Europe) and an **Online-Tool-Kit** of youth-focused knowledge in the field of development cooperation.

All three projects and supporting measures are integrated under the umbrella of *youth for development*.

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