



## Rapport d'activités 2021

*Article:*  
**United Nations Youth Delegates Luxembourg**

**la Voix de la Jeunesse**

**d'Stëmm vun der Jugend**

## United Nations Youth Delegates Luxembourg



### Infobox:

The UN Youth Delegates officially represent the interests of youth from their country at the United Nations (UN). They are selected to accompany the diplomatic delegation of their government to the meeting at the UN, and particularly the General Assembly of the UN.

The UNYD Luxembourg Program is an educational opportunity, a citizenship education project, which aims to support the UN Youth Delegates from Luxembourg so that the voice of youth from Luxembourg can be heard at the UN.

### Vous désirez plus d'informations?

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Due to the exceptional circumstances of 2020, Ema Mehic and Lara Schummer, the UN Youth Delegates of Luxembourg, could prolong their mandate until 2022. During the year 2020, their commitment as UN Delegates had to be done digitally, but luckily in 2021 both were able to engage in more meaningful and physical interaction with other young people in Luxembourg. However, a physical presence at the UN in New York or at other conferences was unfortunately still not possible due to the pandemic.

During their mandate, it was important for Ema and Lara to represent the interests of Luxembourgish youth and to raise awareness on problematics which affect the youth. Furthermore, promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was another commitment they wanted to achieve. Therefore, Ema and Lara did not miss their opportunities to accomplish following activities:

In February, they delivered virtually a statement at the 59th Commission for Social Development, the UN advisory body responsible for the social development pillar of global development, on the

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topic: “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”. In their statement, they emphasised the digital divide (“Leaving no one behind means leaving no one offline”) and the harmful effect of digital tools on people’s mental health, especially on the youth.

Few weeks later, Ema participated at the Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights. The objectives of the seminar were to: Highlight discrimination and challenges that young people in all their diversity face in the realization of their human rights, by virtue of their age; Explore how youth is mainstreamed across different human rights mechanisms and consider possibilities to further enhance youth mainstreaming; Identify possible actions and measures for the consideration of Member States and the Human Rights Council to improve human rights for young people. Ema gave a statement about the challenges young people face to have access to the most basic rights like education, health and housing and that the pandemic even worsens it. She gave recommendations how to use the potential of young people in decision making that will create opportunities for everyone and a more equal future.

She also participated in discussions of The Group of Friends of Children and the SDGs, which is a group of 63 UN Member States that was created during the SDG negotiation process to ensure children’s issues were included in the SDGs. She delivered a statement about child rights in a digital age. She also participated at the Special Rapporteur on the right to physical and mental health intervention where she had an interactive dialogue on sexual health.

In May, Ema and Lara introduced their SDGs awareness raising workshop in Luxembourgish schools. Students from the Lycée Aline Mayrisch Luxembourg and the Lycée Hubert Clement Esch were the fortunate ones to express their worries and concerns about the insufficient climate action on government level, finding affordable housing in Luxembourg and the ongoing gender stereotypes. Ema and Lara drew the conclusion that the young students are very aware of global and local issues and are willing to be part of the solution. They took many impressions home for their further work as UN Delegates.

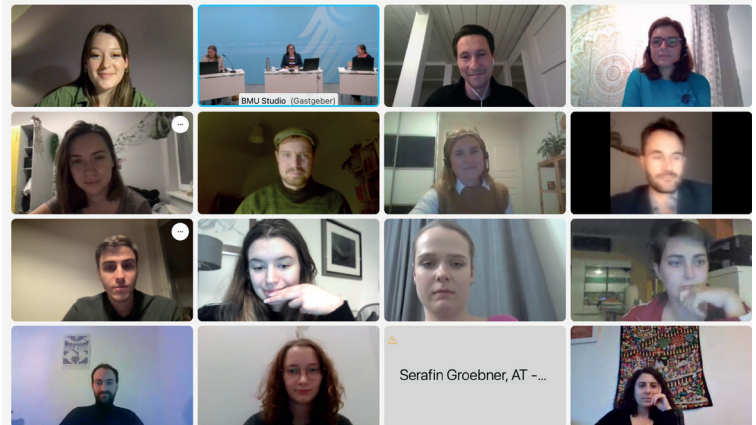




For the 76th UN General Assembly (UNGA), the main policy-making organ of the organization, Lara helped organise a digital side event with eight other UNYD's. They had an interesting panel discussion with speakers from around the world about the topic "The impact of increased use of digital technologies on young people's mental health". Mental health problems have been a taboo topic for a long time, but many brave youngsters have voiced their concerns and struggles during these unprecedented times. Young people are aware of the evidence-based correlation between digital technologies and youth mental health struggles and it has to be placed on the policy makers' agendas according to them.

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The European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) has been organising thematic Workshops in order to facilitate informal exchange of standpoints and experiences during November and December 2021. Responsible consumption and working on increased youth participation in political decision-making processes were the working groups Ema and Lara had chosen. In these working groups, they discussed the topics and in the end a manifesto was written. Lara had the



honour to participate virtually at the ESDN Conference 2021 where she presented, together with a Swedish UNYD, the ESDN Youth Manifesto 2021 to members of the ESDN, EU policymakers, government officials and other stakeholders. Their major themes were climate justice, sustainable production and consumption, and youth participation in policy-making. This manifesto got positive feedback and has been published online on the ESDN website and is going to be sent out to the EU and to national institutions to make the voice of the young people heard!

De Jugendrot wants to thank Ema and Lara for their dedication to the programme, their commitment to their role and responsibility of representing young people towards the decision makers at the UN over the last two years!