

Austrian National Youth Council

The Austrian National Youth Council (BJV) has been the legally anchored representation of the interests of all children and young people in Austria since 2001 and works to ensure participation and the rights of children and young people.

With regard to issues that may affect the interests of the Austrian Youth, the Austrian National Youth Council is equal in status with the legal representations of other so called Social partners like the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Labour, the Trade Unions, the Chamber of farmers – or the Austrian Senior Citizens' Council.

(Federal Youth Representation Act)

The BJV represents the concerns of children and young people between the ages of 0 and 30 years towards the public, the media and politics. That is around three million young people in Austria.

The BJV uses its own association for legal transactions and management: The Austrian Children and Youth Representation (Verein "Österreichische Kinder- und Jugendvertretung", ÖJV). The ÖJV receives Federal Youth Promotion funds and project funds from various different national and international public funding pools.

In addition to child and youth organisations, pupil and student councils and open youth work are also members of the BJV. Regional youth councils and representations of ethnic groups can also send delegates.

The general meeting of the ÖJV takes place once a year and elects a board and a chairing team every two years. The board consists of 12 members with an equal number of male and female delegates. The board sets up project groups to support projects, and all of the member organisations can nominate representatives. The voluntary members of the board and the chairing team are supported in their work by a full-time office.

Youth policy is interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral, so the BJV deals with topics such as education, the employment market, gender, sustainable development and youth protection, among others. The BJV tries to put topics on the political agenda itself while also trying to respond promptly to current developments.

The BJV is also an active member of the European Youth Forum and cooperates with numerous national youth councils and international youth NGOs. The BJV also participates on an international level through its youth delegate programme (European Youth Delegates, UN Youth Delegate).

Further information

- [Austrian National Youth Council](http://www.bjv.at/english-information) www.bjv.at/english-information
- [Federal Youth Representation Act \(in German only\)](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001059)
www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001059
- [European Youth Forum](http://www.youthforum.org) www.youthforum.org
- [Youth delegate programme \(in German only\)](http://bjv.at/europa-internationales/) bjv.at/europa-internationales/

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The task of the Youth Competence Centre is to implement and coordinate the Austrian Youth Strategy and provide data and facts on youth policy and youth work. Among other ways, this is done in the form of infosheets.

If you have any suggestions, please contact jugendstrategie@bka.gv.at