



Xueling Zhou

As I began my political activism in 2018 by participating in the local student council - where I was the first female student representative of my school - I gradually grew more interested in the role modern youth plays in politics. Later I became a member of the Cologne- and Federal State student council(s) and through my efforts to represent the younger generation, I grew to appreciate activism and that it is a form of privilege. This is especially the case for me, as I was raised in an immigrant family, meaning that I did not have the same opportunities as my peers. In 2022, I joined youpaN where I had the opportunity to host my own workshop and attend conferences like the ESD-Net 2030 Europe-North America regional meeting hosted by UNESCO. As part of the forum I was also able to interact with the media and debate political figures, where I underlined the importance of young voices in politics and making activism more available to them.

I continue to pursue this goal in my free time, through giving SV-Bildungswerk e.V. workshops at schools, where I would show different ways in which students can make their voices heard and actions seen.

Overall, these experiences have highlighted to me the significance of ESD in determining the future of our world. However, there are a lot of obstacles, especially for young leaders, that need to be overcome so that together we can change the course of current matters.