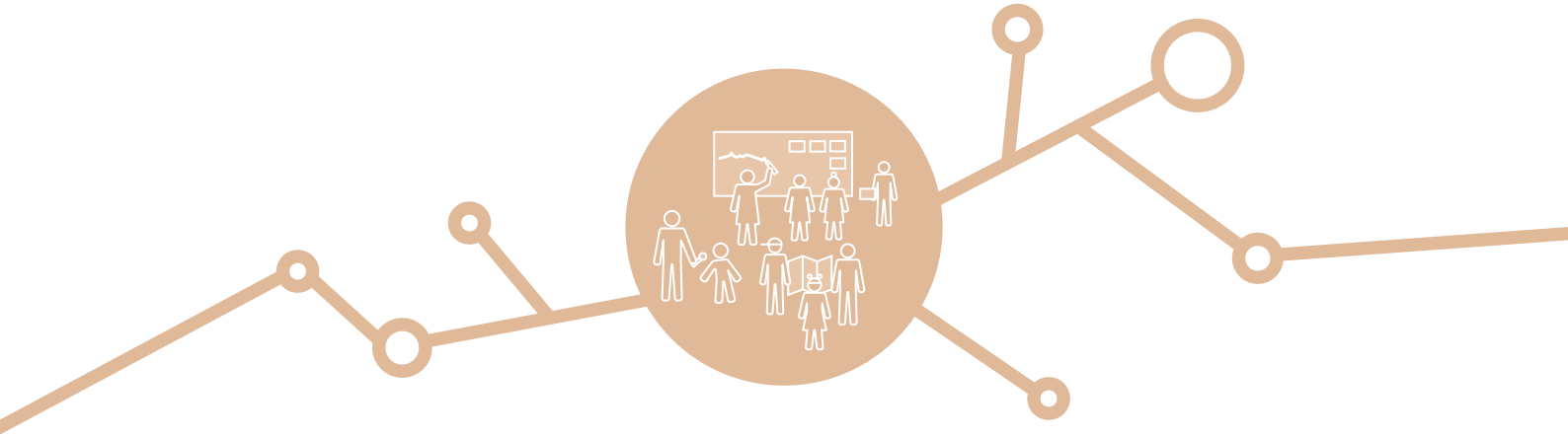


YOUTH CREATES YOUTH STRATEGY

CITY OF VIENNA
AUSTRIA



CATEGORIES

P Inclusive youth participation

PRESENTER

Jürgen Czernohorszky, Executive City Councillor for Education, Integration, Youth and Personnel

DESCRIPTION

The City of Vienna asked more than 22.000 children and young people about their views on the city and their future, and included them in its youth strategy.

MOTIVATION

The wide-ranging project aims to ensure that children and young people in Vienna know that they are heard and that their opinions count. The results of the „Werkstadt Junges Wien“ are the basis for the children and youth strategy of the City of Vienna. This is intended to guarantee that children and young people will continue to feel comfortable and be able to flourish in our city in the future.

PROBLEM ADDRESSED

Participation promotes commitment, makes people aware of their own responsibility and that of others, and provides them with political education. Through youth participation children and young people experience democracy first-hand and recognise that their opinion counts. It also increases identification with schools, parks, youth centres, districts and cities. At the same time, adults get to know the needs, ideas and visions of children and young people and include them in their decisions.

MORE DETAILS

Participation is not a privilege, but a right. The City of Vienna takes this right seriously. As stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, every decision concerning children must be taken in the interest of the child. Children's opinions should be taken into account in all matters affecting them. In 2011, this right to proper participation of children and adolescents was included in the Austrian Federal Constitution. This means that children and young people have a right to be appropriately involved in matters that concern them.

The starting point of the project „Werkstadt Junges Wien“ was to involve young Viennese people and to make their voices heard. It was developed with the aim of gathering the wishes and ideas of children and young people. With workshops across Vienna, children and young people were invited to work together to further develop our city. In these workshops, children and young people between the age of 3-19 years worked on questions about their lives in the city and expressed their opinions openly. In order to guarantee that these workshops correspond to the age and different needs of the children and young people involved, special toolkits with various educational materials were made available to the workshop leaders. Topics were developed together with children and young people, which build the basis for the development of a Children and Youth Strategy for Vienna. The City of Vienna will implement the plan on behalf of 22.000 children and young people.

OUTCOMES

From February to April 2019 more than 22.000 children and young people have participated in over 1.300 workshops. Their inputs are being analysed by a social science institute. Nine topics that were of interest to the children and young people have been identified. 24 groups have been invited to send a representative to a children and youth advisory board to discuss these results.

The results of the Werkstadt Junges Wien participation project will be integrated into the Vienna Children and Youth Strategy by 2020. The following topics and objectives are vital for youngsters:

- Nature and environment: children and young people in Vienna grow up in a clean and healthy environment and climate. They can live sustainably in their city and have many parks, green spaces, and water at their doorsteps. They are well-informed about climate and environmental protection and can get active themselves.
- Opportunities and future: children and young people in Vienna can develop their interests, ideas, and talents. They are supported and respected in educational institutions, can get an education, and find a suitable job. They and their families can get support if they need it. The city actively combats child and youth poverty.
- Health and wellbeing: children and young people in Vienna live a healthy life. There are many doctors, hospitals and other healthcare institutions for those in need. They are protected from smoking, alcohol and other drugs.
- Community and relationships: children and young people in Vienna grow up in a free and peaceful environment. They form part of a community in a diverse city.
- Room and space: children and young people in Vienna are as important as adults in all locations within the city. There is space to play games, get active, or relax.
- Participation and opinions: children and young people in Vienna are involved in decisions that concern them. They get clear information, learn to form an opinion, and are encouraged and supported to express their opinions freely and to take responsibility.
- Safety and security: children and young people in Vienna feel safe and secure. They are protected from violence, harm, bullying, and discrimination. Adults treat them with respect and take them seriously.
- Mobility and transport: children and young people in Vienna are considered in urban transport planning and can move around safely and freely in the city.
- Leisure and culture: children and young people in Vienna have time and opportunities to enjoy leisure activities, sports, games, fun, rest, and recreation. They can freely participate in festivals, events, and cultural activities.

LESSONS LEARNED

- it is essential to involve all stakeholders from the beginning
- it would have been worthwhile to include children and adolescents in the preparation of the educational materials and in the design of the process

LINK

<https://werkstadt.junges.wien.gv.at>