

## Seminar: H

### **YOUTH WORK AND PARTICIPATION. WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN THROUGH PARTICIPATING IN EVERYDAY YOUTH WORK?**

*The effects of participation on the life and employability of young people.*

Best Practice Examples from the experience of  
Munich youth centers (KJR München-Stadt)

Speaker:

Kerstin Hof, Specialist Representative for Children / Department for Children's Culture and Participation





# Kreisjugendring München-Stadt

facts and figures



# Basic Information

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- ✦ Consortium of 70 Youth Associations and Youth Communities
- ✦ More than 200.000 Youths of Munich are incorporated into the KJR
- ✦ Employee for about 500 People (social workers, administrators, clerks, trainees); not to mention all the volunteers
- ✦ Runs about 50 Youth Centers, 9 Day-Care facilities for children and many projects of Youth Work



# Children and Youth Centers offer

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- ✦ Meeting point for children and youths
- ✦ Billard table, soccer table tennis, internet, music, disco, sale of beverages and snacks
- ✦ Special activities for boys, girls and teenies
- ✦ Cultural offerings
- ✦ Outdoor acitivities
- ✦ Drug prevention projects
- ✦ Media acitivities
- ✦ Participation



# Children and Youth Centers offer



- ✦ After school lessons
- ✦ Vacation trips
- ✦ Excursions
- ✦ Streetwork

For example



\* Help and support for Youth regarding transmission from school to job

# Children and Youth Centers offer

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## Specialist Department for Work with Children

To support, develop and evaluate the offerings for children in the facilities of the KJR München-Stadt a specialist department for that field of work has been set up. The focal points of this position are amongst others: participation and empowerment of children, children's rights, cultural offerings, policy for and of children etc.





# Kreisjugendring München-Stadt

Example 1 :

Formal participation

in the children and youth center Aubinger Tenne



The youth council consists of 12 delegates

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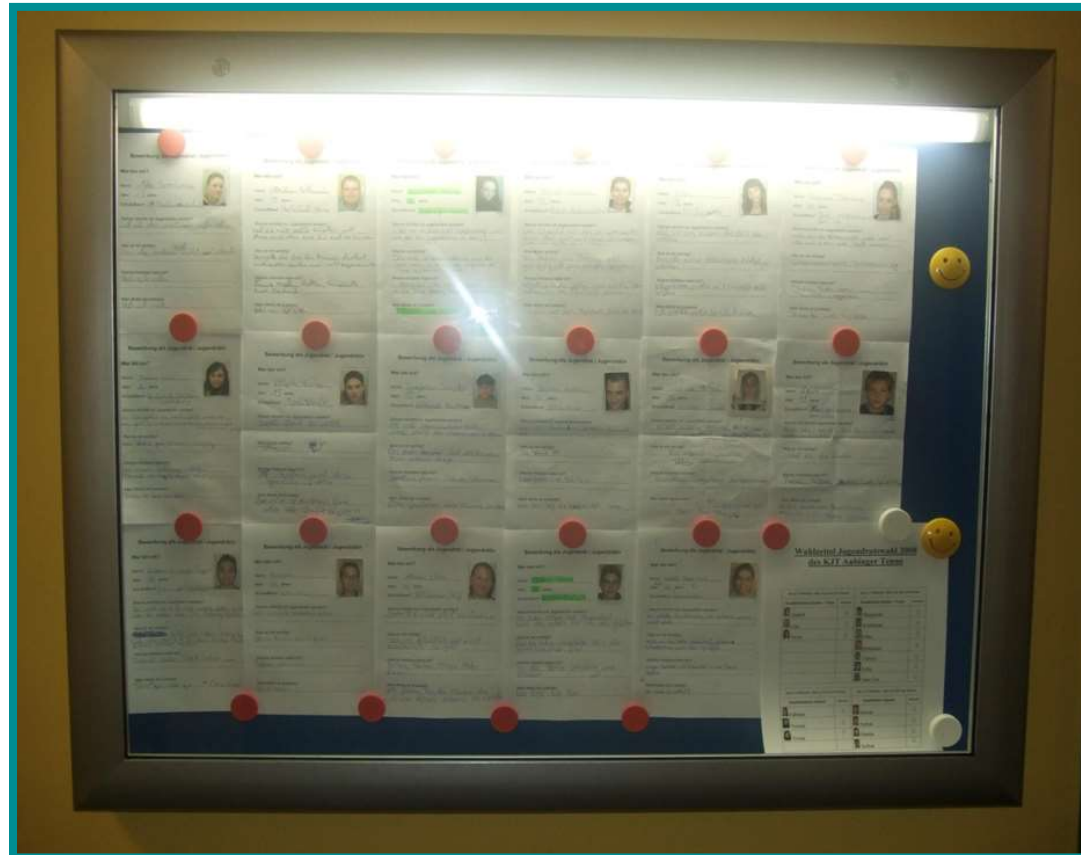


- ✦ 6 girls and 6 boys
- ✦ 6 children (aged 10 to 13 years)
- ✦ 6 youths (aged 14 to 18 years)
- ✦ elected by registered attendees
- ✦ the term of office is one year

























# Election campaign in November



## Wahlzettel Jugendratswahl 2009 des KJT Aubinger Tenne

bis zu 3 Stimmen, aber nur eine pro Person		bis zu 3 Stimmen, aber nur eine pro Person	
Kandidatinnen Kinder / Teens	ankreuzen	Kandidaten Kinder / Teens	ankreuzen
 Denise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Felix	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Isabell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Mike	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Monika	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Sam Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Scheima	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Sebastian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Viviane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Tom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Yasmin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Valerio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
bis zu 3 Stimmen, aber nur eine pro Person		bis zu 3 Stimmen, aber nur eine pro Person	
Kandidatinnen Jugend	ankreuzen	Kandidaten Jugend	ankreuzen
 Büsra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Christian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Fabiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Korbinian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Fathea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Marco	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Natascha	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Tanja	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Nico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



# ...Counting the votes in December



# Dinner of the youth council in January

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# Seminar weekend in February

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# Methods



# Have closed meetings

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# Icebreaker activities





# Trust games



# Adventure games

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# Youth Council

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- ✦ defined seminar times  
(such as working on the JuRa handbook)
- ✦ role playing  
(how do I respond to conflict situations)
- ✦ solo (spend some time alone outdoors)

## In the institution:

- ✦ meetings of the youth council  
(once or twice a month and if necessary)
- ✦ house meetings with all attendees  
(if necessary and spontaneously)



The rights and obligations are regulated by the youth council handbook

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The members of the youth council...

- ✦ have their own budget
- ✦ have a say in decisions regarding purchases and offerings
- ✦ are permitted to sanction
- ✦ perform self-disclosures  
(supported by volunteers (JuLeiCa))



# The members of the youth council and the volunteers

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support us, among other things, with...

- ✦ the implementation of the house rules  
(appropriate handling of the furniture, the garbage and observation of the no-smoking-rule)
- ✦ defusing conflicts  
(by not looking away but taking action)
- ✦ carrying out offerings and parties
- ✦ opening up the café on Sunday
- ✦ independently opening the institution





# Youth leader card



- ✦ 18 year olds are encouraged to take a course and get the youth leader card "JuLeiCa"
- ✦ Otherwise the visiting rights expire by the time they turn 19.



# Theories

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The establishment of a youth council will only be possible if:

- ✦ the children and youths notice that the educationalists take the topic seriously
- ✦ the office actually holds power
- ✦ the office holders notice that we support them and their decisions





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This results in more respect and appreciation amongst the other attendees and improves the reputation of the office.







# Kreisjugendring München-Stadt

Example 2 : Throne project

A participation project for regarding 25 years of Children's rights (2014) in cooperation with 10 KJR youth centers





If I was a queen/king ...  
..what can i change..??



A scroll of parchment with text on it. The scroll is unrolled and lies flat, showing its texture and some staining. The text is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font. The background is black.

## **Once upon a time ...**

From spring to autumn 2014 a throne wandered through 10 different institutions of the Kreisjugendring. Sitting on this throne, up to 200 girls and boys (aged 5 to 16 years) interviewed each other about children's rights, participation and freedom of expression.

This documentary, a blog and a video clip show what the small kings and queens would change in their district, in school but also throughout the world.

Using iPads, the children recorded all the videos and took all the photos by themselves and, with some help, they also did the cutting afterwards.

Many thanks to everyone for the great cooperation.

I hope you enjoy watching and invite you to be amazed and reflective about what you see.



# Throne project



First of all, a wonderful throne was built with the kids from the children's club in Harthof in cooperation with the KJR Ideenreichmobil...





# Throne project



...and wandered through the institutions of the Kreisjugendring

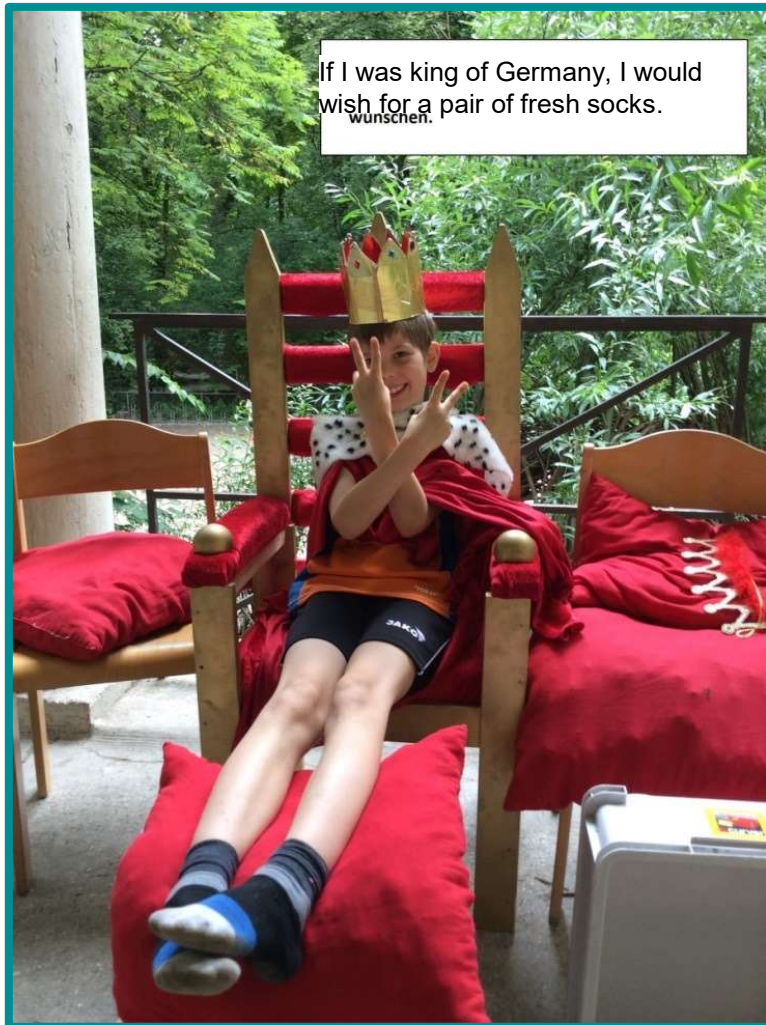




# Throne project



## Some statements...



# Throne project

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...that there are no more wars, no more poor people and countries any longer.

...that there is more equality.

...that there is more sport at school.



# Throne project

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- ...that children from abroad get the opportunity to learn more.
- ...that children from abroad do not get offended because of their looks.





# Throne project

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...that there are less cigarettes and energy drinks at the playgrounds.

...that the toilets at school are clean and not clogged up.









# Children and youth forum in the town hall



Twice a year they can submit their applications at the city council and discuss and vote with others kids. The politicians help and support and take part as a „godfather“



# Throne project

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More information can be found here:  
<http://kinderrechte.kjr-blog.de/>

Contact:

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Department for Children's Culture and  
Participation

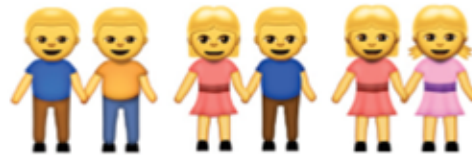
Kreisjugendring München-Stadt

Paul-Heyse-Str. 22, 80336 München

089 - 514106 – 46

[kinderbeauftragte@kjr-m.de](mailto:kinderbeauftragte@kjr-m.de)





Example 3 : Youth Center Participation with the school:  
School should be a place where everyone feels comfortable.  
Including YOU!



# Principles of the project



Making participation a part of school

Forming

and  
standing in  
for opinions  
regarding  
the  
common

Finding ways to take  
decisions

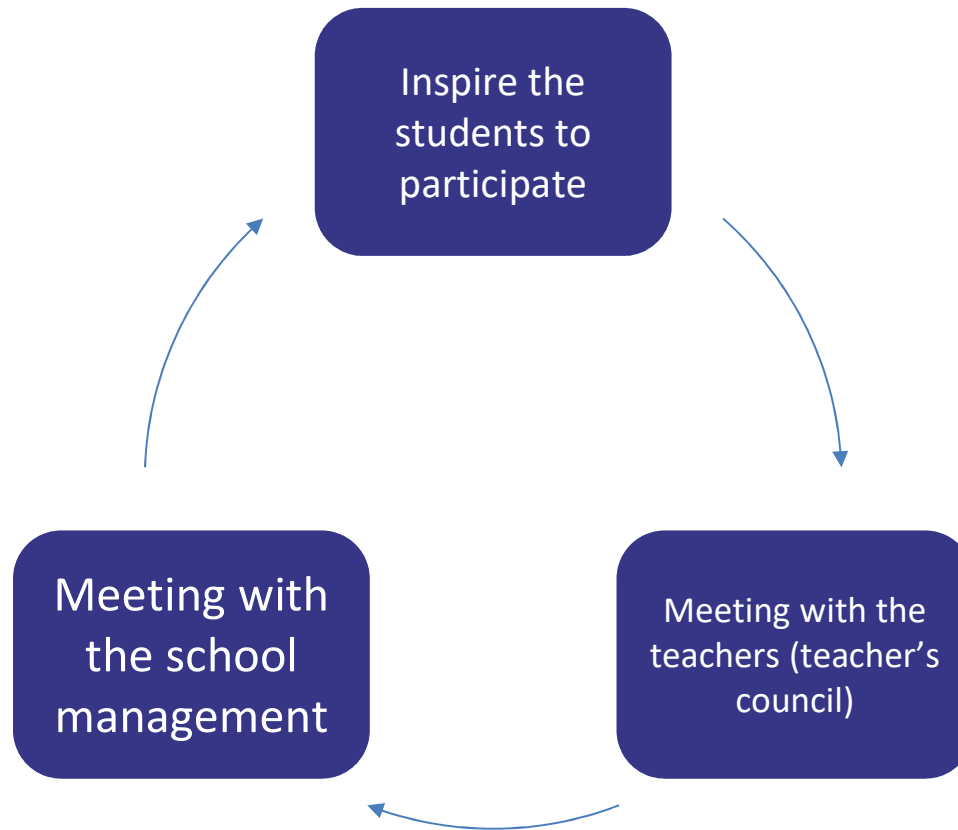
Cooperation of school,  
OKJA and SSA

Objective:  
a better cooperation for  
ALL



# Look for allies and sort out a common understanding of participation

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## How do I feel at school?



1 = Very comfortable    2 = Comfortable    3 = Uncomfortable    4 = Very uncomfortable



## Am I able to participate at school?



1 = I participate a lot

2 = I am able to participate

3 = I am not able to participate at all





Is there something I would like to change about school?



1 = Yes

2 = No



Am I willing to participate / to do something?



1 = Yes

2 = No



# Needs assessment

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In advance

- ✦ Discussion with the school management
- ✦ Teacher's council
- ✦ Kick-off event with all the students  
(icebreaker activities, questioning via postcard)
- ✦ Evaluation with the school management





# Needs assessment

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## During the project

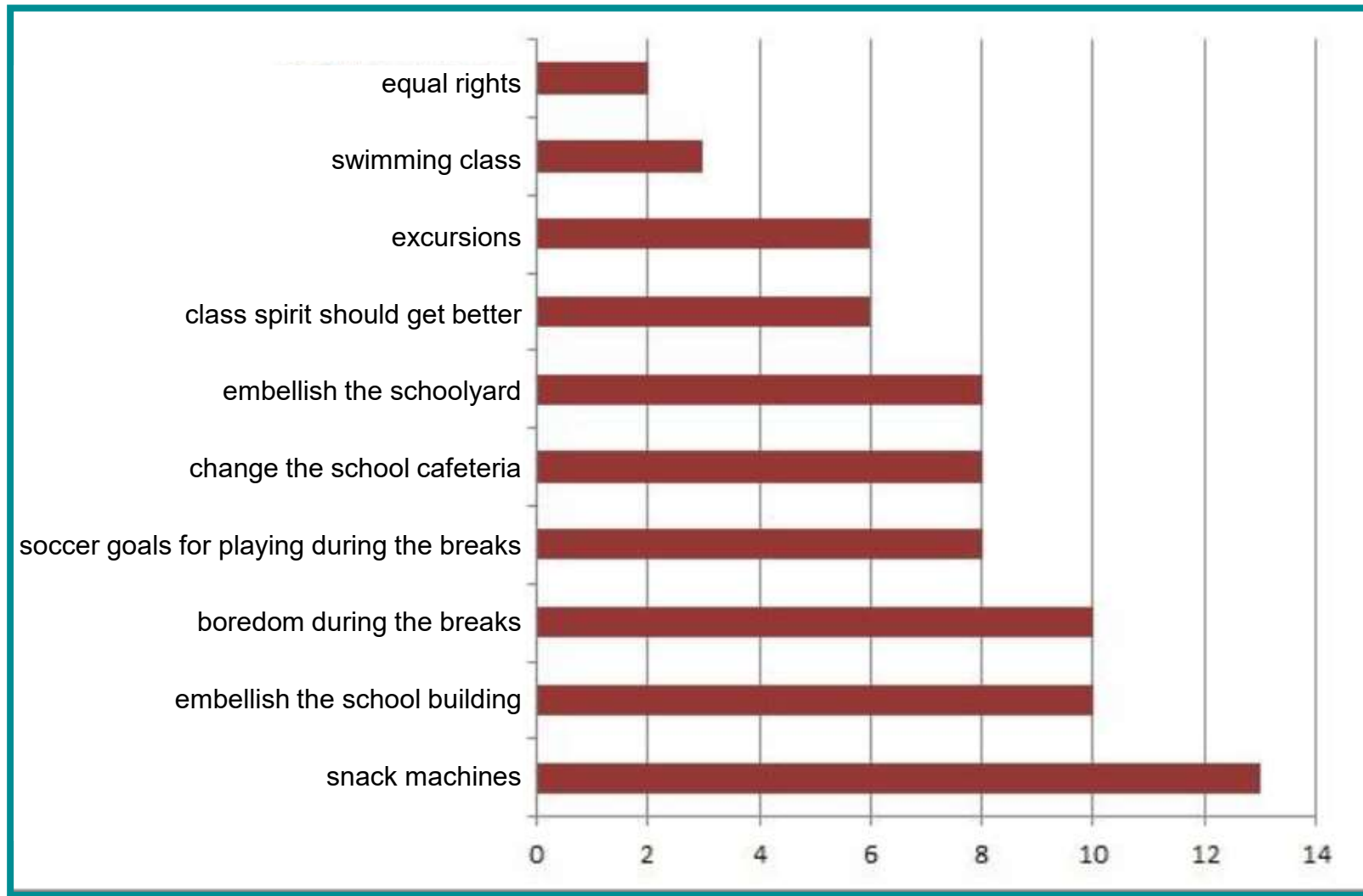
- ✦ Evaluation of the postcards with the project group
- ✦ Conversation among the students of the project group and the others

What could actually be changed about the Fromund school?

How could you contribute?



# The results of the questioning via postcards:



# Selection of the project group

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- ✦ For organizational reasons: start with one class
- ✦ The students of this class formed a voluntary project group
- ✦ A 8<sup>th</sup> grade is suitable to represent most of the interests of all the students
- ✦ The responsible teacher is also a decisive factor



# Project work

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Duration:  
September 2015 – January 2016

Amount:  
2 lessons per week

Location:  
FEZI

Method:  
socio-pedagogical teamwork

Money:  
opening balance of 1000 €

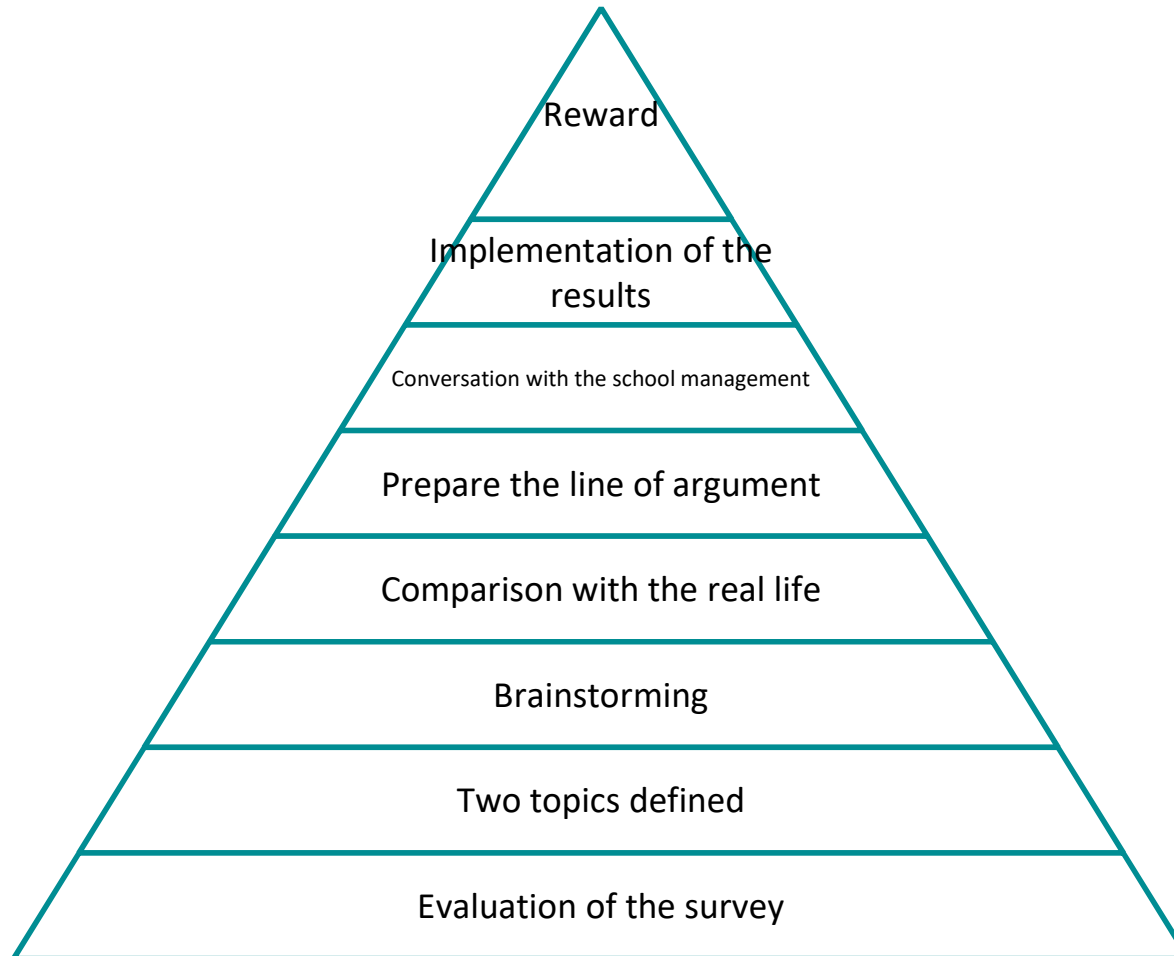
Project work is based on voluntary participation





# The right approach

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# Public relations



Participation will only be possible if EVERYONE is well informed

Foundation  
of a press  
group

A consistent  
design for  
the project

Create an  
information  
culture

High-quality  
promotional  
material

## Obstacles / Hurdles / Please consider the following

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- ✦ Conflicts in the classes, such as current daily events
- ✦ The personnel structure in the teaching staff, such as a turnover of staff
- ✦ The temporal flexibility / expenditure of time
- ✦ The projects take place after the OKJA core time
- ✦ The children define the content. The adult's trust, flexibility and willingness to take a risk
- ✦ What happens after the project?



# What are the benefits?

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- ✦ Development of basic structures for the democratic participation of students and teachers
- ✦ The student's demands became more realistic.
- ✦ The youths learned to appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of others
- ✦ Change of roles  
(teacher was a part of the group)
- ✦ The base for participation at school was created.





# What are the benefits?

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- ✦ Improvement of the sense of community in the class (used to be a “conflict class“)
- ✦ Improvement of the communication with the school management
- ✦ Reduction of prejudices among the students due to common interests and objectives



# What are the benefits?

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- ✦ The students improved their linguistic skills  
(text creation / writing, moderation of discussions, presentation of the topics in other classes)
- ✦ Self-organised distribution of tasks due to the evaluation of everyone's individual strengths





Participation is...

... healing.

... the base for pedagogical  
encounter.

... the requirement for the  
development of trust.





**Thank you for your attention!**

Do you have any questions ;-)

