

## **Description of youth participation project**

The project "**Rathausschule**" <City Hall School> was founded in 1992 by decision of the city council.

Settled in the "Office for Children Affairs" in the "Department of Family and Children's Services" with the general assignment to advance social development of youngsters, its aim is to enhance the development of young people into politically mature citizens.

The "Rathausschule" is bringing in contact youngsters with politicians and administrators of the city, thereby showing the political and administrative structures of the City of Cologne.

It wants to encourage the active participation in decision processes.

It works with schools, other institutions of children - and youth work and other free groups.

It is interacting with the city council and administration and above all the youngsters themselves.

One of the subprojects to which is further referred here is „**Der Tag der Jugend im Rathaus**“ <The Day of Youngsters in the City Hall>.

Launched by parliamentary party comprehensive decision of the city council as amended on 04. 05. 2001.

Pupils of the age of 14-17 Years, from three different classes, coming from three different school types, form fictive political parties and act as councillors in a fictive council meeting in the City of Cologne.

They choose a matter from local affaires, develop their aim and an argumentation and represent this in a fictive council. Mister Fritz Schramma, Lord Mayor of Cologne, is the president of the fictive council

They are thereby supported by councillors of their own choice and representatives of thematically involved charges of the Municipality of Cologne.

The whole project last for approx. three month ending with the "council" in the actual city hall.

Though it's only a map exercise it's bringing youngsters closer to understand the mechanisms of the municipality work. In addition politicians and administrators are getting closer to understand ideas and perspectives of young citizens.

## **Cities for Children contact person**

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## **Executive organisation**

Name of organisation: City of Cologne, Amt für Kinder, Jugend und Familie  
<Department of Family and Children's Services>  
Type of organisation: Municipality  
Website:  
Additional information:

### **Project description**

The project provides a solution to the following question/problem:  
Developmental enhancement of young people as politically mature citizens

Project idea conceived by:  
Parliamentary party comprehensive decision of the city council as amended on 04. 05. 2001

Date started:  
2001

Date of completion:  
Annual Event, total duration approx. three months

Aims:  
Enhancement of political Competence

Target group:  
Pupils of 14-17 Years of three different school types  
Schüler weiterführender Schulen, Alter 14-17 Jahre

The project reached approx. 90 per year young people:

Working method:  
Map exercise (simulation game) in local affairs.  
Three different classes from three different school types form fictive political parties and act as councillors in a fictive council meeting in the City of Cologne.

How are young people involved?  
They choose a matter from local affairs, develop their aim and an argumentation and represent this in a fictive council.

What is the role of young people?  
They act as being councillors.

How many young people participated?

Approx. 90 pupils a Year.

How many young people were involved in the organisation of the project?

Approx. 90 pupils a Year.

What was the role of the executive organisation?

Planning, organisation and realisation Providing the frame of the event.

What other organisations were involved?

Representatives of political parties, the choice is up to the pupils,

And representatives of thematically involved charges of the Municipality of Cologne

### **Finance**

What is the budget?

Between 5.000,-10 000, Euro

Who provided the finances?

Municipality of the City of Cologne.

### **Outcome**

Have the aims been achieved?

The reaction so far has been 100% positive

What were the success factors?

The Youngsters felt taken seriously.

What were the pitfalls?

None.

Future plans:

To continue and enlarge the concept.

Quotes and opinions of young people:

Will be presented during the workshop

Zitate

Any other remarks:

Photograph:

Will be presented during the workshop as well