

WORKSHOP PART 1

In the workshop we talked about examples in Wangen where youth engagement exists.

We could see one result of political engagement of young people in Wangen with the skate park, which was planned and realised over one and a half years. It is proof that young people with willpower can really achieve what they want and that they can really influence their future with these interventions by the community. Skateboarding is a very popular hobby, both among young people and children, and indeed the park fills up with people in the afternoons and evenings. In the meantime, they are thinking about renovating it, as it is not very modern anymore and was built a few years ago.

In the practical part of the workshop, in mixed groups of students from Prato, Ebensee and Wangen, we made a list of advantages and disadvantages of young people's political participation and practical proposals or projects for our cities to increase and improve young people's participation.

WORKSHOP PART 2

We listened to an explanation about the Youth Council of the Municipality of Wangen, which was founded over the course of two years by a mixed group of young people who gave themselves a regulation with rights and duties. They succeeded so quickly also because they are protected by a law of the region from 2015 that protects the right of young people to be heard.

Since 2012, all boys and girls aged 14 to 19 who live or study in Wangen have been able to apply for and vote for the local council. The age group (14-19 years) was chosen because in these years one reaches sufficient maturity to be able to adequately express one's ideas for the future. Fifteen representatives are elected for a term of two years and two of them also have a permanent seat on the Adult Council, although they cannot vote, only speak and intervene. They can then make suggestions to the adult council and point out the interests and problems of the young people, and the adults have to listen to them and try to help them.

