

## Wirkungen des regionalen und internationalen Verkehrs auf Gesellschaft und Umwelt. SchülerInnen planen Mobilität für die Zukunft

### Kurzfassung der gleichnamigen Dokumentation

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Roads and highways, cars, trucks and other vehicles – their number is steadily increasing. Consequently, carbon dioxide emissions due to traffic show an upward tendency and render efforts to catch up with the aims of the Kyoto protocol futile. Landscapes are buried below asphalt and concrete, the groundwater level drops as a result and constant traffic noise torments the population of formerly quiet and peaceful valleys. An altered attitude towards mobility however, can only be based on insight and knowledge.

The "effects of regional and far range traffic on society and nature" will thus be a motto at Vienna's BRG and BORG 15 for the education work during the school-year 2004/05.

All grades and many subjects and teachers will be included in a common project that contributes to the school development process. According to curricula and the cognitive development of pupils technical, economical and ecological skills will be trained, ethical questions discussed and concepts developed dealing with improvements of the traffic situation a) in the immediate surroundings of the school, b) at Vienna and cities in general and c) in the European Union.

The school-year 2003/04 was dedicated to preparatory work including the development of project plans, the cooperation in a competition of Austria's Climate



Partnership, the implementation of a teachers' team, the finding of partner institutions (ministries, universities etc.) and the educational work with pupils. The latter was aimed at a) choosing upper grade pupils willing to promote the project among their colleagues and b) finding out if and how pupils are ready to commit themselves over a prolonged period of time in project work on a single – albeit important – topic.



Our efforts were rewarded by a great success: the project plan we submitted was winner of the first prize in the competition: "Pupils plan the Mobility of the Future". On the one hand this means an obligation to perform the project as planned but on the other hand we can now rely on the capacities of outstanding partners: Austria's Ministry of Environment, Austrian Mobility Research and Austria's Climate Partnership. This will facilitate the recruitment of further cooperation partners and thus far we have been able to ensure the collaboration of the district administration, the traffic police and the Local Agenda with respect to the planned activities concerning the surroundings of our school. Furthermore, pupils of our school took part in two political events, namely the kick off workshop for Europe's "Car-free-day" at the town hall of Graz and the WHO Youth Conference that was held in Budapest in June. From the beginning, the majority of the pupils involved took more than average interest in the project. It was evident, however, that the topic was originally only remembered if it was initiated by the teachers. The events in consequence of our winning the mobility competition finally ensured that pupils realized the significance of our project. As for their role as coaches of lower grade pupils during the project they do not feel fit for the task as yet – so that they will have to be trained at the beginning of next school year.