

## **Project Title: CEHAPE-Youth Participation in Austria**

### **Description of the project including the project's goal**

In Austria the great significance of active youth participation is stressed in the national Children's Environment and Health Action Plan.

Since 2006 an intensive process of youth involvement under the lead of the Federal Ministry of Environment, the Styrian Centre of Environmental Education and the Youth-Environment-Platform JUMP has taken place.

One of the key aspects within this process is the training of youths to be „CEHAPE-Peers“. 60 youths have taken part so far.

The goal of this project is building capacities of young people on the Regional Priority Goals (RPGs) in order to involve them in the implementation of the CEHAPE and to ensure a high quality of youth participation in Austria.

### **Project objectives, activities and achievements**

#### **Objectives to reach the goal**

Organizing regular meetings, so-called "CEHAPE-Trainings" for networking, exchange of information, training-skills, etc.

Providing concrete opportunities for youth participation (e.g. Youth meeting with the Austrian Federal Minister of Environment to discuss environmental issues, Opportunity to take part in meetings of the Austrian CEHAPE Task Force, etc.)

Providing Training-Skills for the CEHAPE-Peers in the area of project-management. By implementing their own youth-projects the CEHAPE-Peers contribute actively in the implementation of the CEHAPE in Austria.

#### **Activities and Achievements**

Youths aged 16 to 24 from all over Austria are trained to implement projects within the Regional Priority Goals. According to the principle of Peer Education the participants motivate other peers by implementing their projects to get active for environment and health issues. Furthermore CEHAPE-Peers take actively part in national political processes (e.g. national task-force meetings, workshops with decision-makers) and international processes. For example, a CEHAPE-Peer collected 2.500 signatures for a general youth discount for public transportation in Upper Austria and handed them over to regional politicians. As a result the youth discount was effectively introduced.

Other examples of CEHAPE-Peer-Projects are a video on the issue of water or the project which dealt with physical activity of students of a secondary school.

In preparation for the Fifth WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health 2010 in Parma the CEHAPE-Peers produced a video about Youth Participation in the Austrian CEHAPE and devised a Youth Position Paper which was discussed with the Austrian Minister of Environment.

From 2011 to 2012 further Trainings for becoming CEHAPE-Peers took place in Austria. The current CEHAPE-Trainings have started in June 2013 and will continue until January 2014.

Due to the great success CEHAPE-Peers will be further involved in the implementation of the Austrian CEHAPE.

### **How young people were involved.**

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Environment as well as the Youth Environment Platform have already promoted and supported the idea of active youth participation for many years.

The Youth Environment Platform provides the framework for the CEHAPE-youth participation in Austria. But this framework needs, of course, active young people who fill it with life and want to get involved within political processes.

It is a very important principle of the work of the Youth Environment Platform that young people are also having a say when it comes to the design of youth participation projects. So they are actively involved in the project's planning, implementation and – if necessary – in the adaption of the concept for future activities.

CEHAPE-Peers always have the chance to contribute their own ideas for the programme of the CEHAPE-Trainings.

The project is an element of ongoing youth participation in Austria. It was promoted in schools, universities and youth centres all over Austria as well as via Social Media.

### **Project funding.**

The project is financially supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Environment.

**Project's connections to national or international environment processes.**

The CEHAPE-Youth Participation in Austria is a contribution to the Implementation of the Children's Environment Health Action Plan for Europe.

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**Follow ups, outcomes and upcoming linked activities**

As already mentioned the CEHAPE-Youth Participation in Austria is an ongoing project. This years' CEHAPE-Trainings have started in June 2013 and will continue until January 2014. 20 young CEHAPE-Peers take actively part in the Austrian political environment and health process, implement their own youth projects and motivate other young people to get active for environment and health issues.

Due to the great success CEHAPE-Peers will be further involved in the implementation of the Austrian CEHAPE.