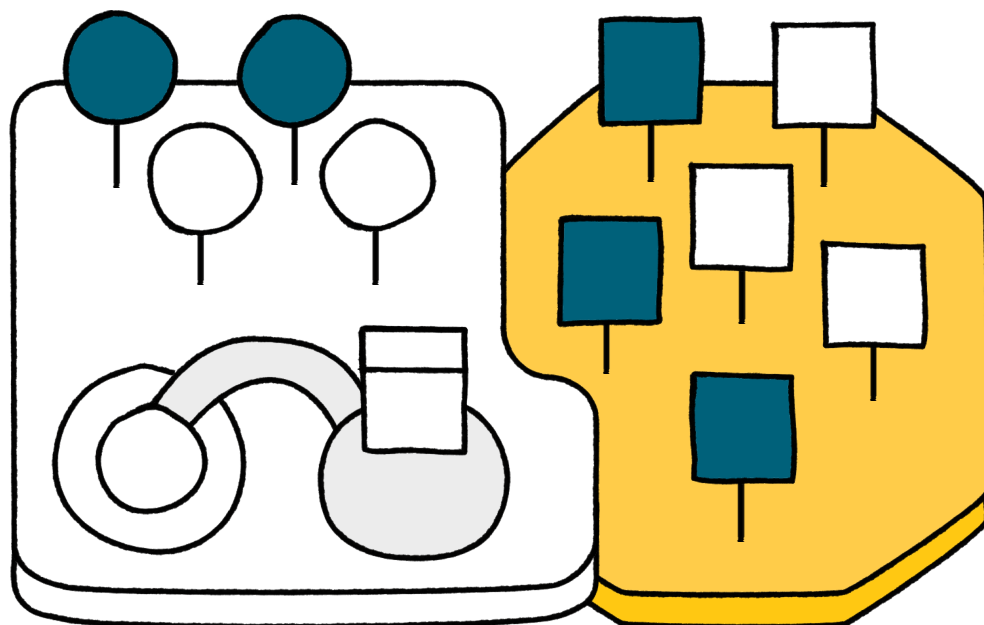


## Children and young people's participation in local planning revision



### Time frame

2017

### Stakeholders

Political executive  
Extra-curricular education  
Traffic planners  
Spatial and urban planners  
Landscape and environmental planners

### Typologies (space types)

Outside space  
Intermediate space



### Institutional framework



### Design quality criteria

Freedom from danger  
Accessibility



### Structure-related quality criteria

Strategic orientation  
Collaboration  
Participation and identification

### The starting point

The city of Thun purposely expanded its participation process to include children, young people and parents as part of its overall revision of its basic building regulations (local planning revision, or OPR in German). These groups were to have the opportunity to have their say on the future development of their city and living environment. Two agencies simultaneously expressed a need for the participation of children, young people and parents: the planning office, as part of the OPR provisions, and the Children and Youth Unit from the Office for Education and Sport as part of the acquisition of the UNICEF "Child-friendly City" label. The focus of the participation – to gain statements about the current and future living environment of the participants – was almost identical. This meant the issues in question could be jointly described and specific questions formulated.

### Aims

- Children, young people and parents should have the opportunity to express their opinions on the development of their city and their living environment.
- Statements should be acquired from the target group of children, young people and parents on the quality, deficits and potential in the city area and in individual neighbourhoods of Thun.
- The content from the inclusion of children, young people and parents should be evaluated and be included in the OPR or the acquisition of the UNICEF "Child-friendly City" label.

### Target group

- Children
- Young people
- Parents

### **Project progression**

The concept for the participation events was jointly developed by the planning office and the Children and Youth Unit from the Office for Education and Sport. In spring 2017, participation processes took place with children, young people and parents. They were carried out by the Children and Youth Unit with the four upper schools and in the Dürrenast neighbourhood.

Pupils from the four upper schools were surveyed online about their leisure activities as part of a school lesson. They could also make suggestions for the design of Thun's leisure provisions by pinpointing their favourite places and "non-spaces" on a map and commenting on them. Overall, 12 classes from year 7 to year 9 took part in the survey.

A neighbourhood inspection tour was held for the younger children in the Dürrenast district – an example for all Thun neighbourhoods. Children and parents in and around the adventure playground were asked about their living environment. Depending on the age of the children, four different methods were used: the pin method; subjective maps; neighbourhood inspection tours with guideline-supported interviews; questionnaires.

### **Success factors**

Cross-departmental collaboration with complementary skills between the Children and Youth Unit from the Office for Education and Sport and the city of Thun's planning office.

### **Challenges**

- Evaluation of a large quantity of data due to the different participation events.
- Synchronisation of the processes for the local planning revision and for the acquisition of the UNICEF "Child-friendly City" label.

### **Conclusion**

Thanks to the Children and Youth Unit's collaboration with the city of Thun's planning office, it became possible to gather target group-specific information on the needs of children, young people and parents in terms of the future development of the city area. The complementary resources and skills generated a direct added value for both departments and helped to avoid duplications. The gathered results also serve to further develop various projects in the two departments.

### **Contact details**

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