



JUNGES WIEN



The Vienna Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030

Publishing Details

Owner and Publisher

Vienna City Administration

Project Coordination

WIENXTRA-Junges Wien in cooperation with the Municipal Department for Education and Youth

Contents

Developed on the basis of a representative survey conducted by the Institute for Empirical Social Studies (IFES) and participatory workshops held within the framework of the Vienna Children and Youth Parliament 2024/2025, conducted between September 2024 and June 2025. Supplemented by expertise from the City of Vienna's Municipal Departments as well as organisations represented on the Advisory Board of the Children and Youth Strategy.

Text

WIENXTRA-Junges Wien: Anna Ellmer, Nikolina Franjkic, Karima Gerlach, Benjamin Schmid
SCHREIBE UND REDE - Marianne Lackner

Design and Layout

Die Mühle - Visual Studio

Photo Copyrights

© Carolina Frank
© Aleksandra Kawka

Print

Print Alliance HAV Produktions GmbH, Bad Vöslau

Further information on Junges Wien projects:

junges.wien.gv.at

Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030 was adopted by the Vienna City Council in September 2025.

© August 2025, Vienna City Administration

Table of Contents

Forewords	2
Facts and Figures on Children and Youth in Vienna	4
Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030: Guiding the Way to the World’s Most Child-Friendly City	6
Children’s Rights - Universal Rights for All Children	8
Vienna - City of Human Rights	10
Werkstadt Junges Wien: Pioneering Participation	14
Vienna’s Children and Youth Strategy 2020–2025: 9 Goals & 193 Measures	16
Vienna’s Children and Youth Parliament	16
The Participatory Children and Youth Million	17
More Examples of Implemented Measures at a Glance	18
Insights from the Large-Scale Survey on Children and Youth in Vienna	22
The Topics of Vienna’s Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030	26
Climate, Nature and Environment	30
Public Space and Mobility	34
Leisure and Culture	38
Education and School	44
Labour and Finance	48
Health and Social Affairs	52
Community and Safety	58
Democracy and Participation	64
Next Steps	68
Thank you!	70

Working Together to Create One of the World's Most Child- and Youth-Friendly Cities

Children and young people have the right to be heard; not only within their families or in school, but also in city politics. Their right to participate is not only a core part of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, but it is also enshrined in Austria's Federal Constitution. Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030 reflects this right: It takes effect wherever young people want to actively co-shape their environment - whether at school, in their neighbourhoods, in parks, in digital spaces or in political processes.

In Vienna, involving children and young people in central urban development issues is established practice. Initiatives such as the Children and Youth Parliament and the Children and Youth Million project make their participation both possible and visible. In recent years, for example, the Children and Youth Million has funded free swimming lessons for children and young people, accessible tactile guidance systems for people who are blind or have low vision in front of a school, snack gardens and trees in parks and on the Danube Island, as well as open air cinema events for young people. These projects show that participation is more than just a buzzword: It is a political stance and a tool for making the city more just, inclusive and future-ready.

With its new Strategy, the City of Vienna continues to take a pioneering role in the field of participation. The Strategy is the result of a broad participatory process and was developed in close collaboration with Vienna's young residents, experts from the fields of education, social affairs and public health as well as the City Administration. Its content reflects the diversity of Vienna's younger generations, along with all their talents, concerns, worries and hopes. For us, this Strategy represents a clear political mandate: to create a city that ensures education and equal opportunities for all children, provides inclusive spaces where young people can thrive and actively combats discrimination and marginalisation – a city in which children and young people are taken seriously.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this process, especially the many dedicated children and young people. Their ideas, voices and commitment speak a clear language: Vienna's future begins today.

And it belongs to all of us.



© PID David Bohmann

Michael Ludwig
Mayor and Governor of Vienna



© City of Vienna_David Bohmann

Bettina Emmerling
Deputy Mayor and Executive
City Councillor for Education,
Youth, Integration, Transparency
and Vienna Markets

Having a Say. Co-creating Solutions. Taking Part in Decisions.



© Stefan Pohovici- Sachim

Dolores Bakos

Dolores Bakos
Member of the
Vienna City Council (NEOS)

Children and young people have the right to grow up in a city where they are seen, heard and taken seriously – a city in which their opinions count and their needs are taken into account, whether in the design of playgrounds, in digital education, in public space or in climate and environmental protection.

Vienna's new Children and Youth Strategy shows just how diverse the perspectives of young people are – and how much potential lies in their participation. More than 2,000 children and young people have made their voices heard through a survey and the Children and Youth Parliament, contributing small and big ideas, visions, questions and criticism. They have clearly shown us what they feel is missing, what empowers them and what they expect from their city.

As members of the Vienna City Council, we see it as our responsibility to give these voices political weight. The Strategy is not just a document, it is a promise. A promise to create conditions that empower all young people in Vienna to follow their own path. We are talking about very concrete issues: safer routes to school, smart digital offers, affordable leisure opportunities, mental health care, gender-sensitive education, environmental protection and equal opportunities. It is about enabling young people to have a say, to help shape developments and to take part in decisions – across all areas of life.



© Mihitta-Kandlbauer

Marina Hanke

Marina Hanke
Member of the
Vienna City Council (SPÖ)

For the Children and Youth Strategy is not an end, but a beginning. It is our shared roadmap towards a Vienna in which young people can live well – today and in the future.

A Vienna that listens, takes them seriously and acts. In the years ahead, we aim to work together with children and young people to achieve concrete improvements.

Step by step, with courage and reliability.

Facts and Figures on Children and Youth in Vienna

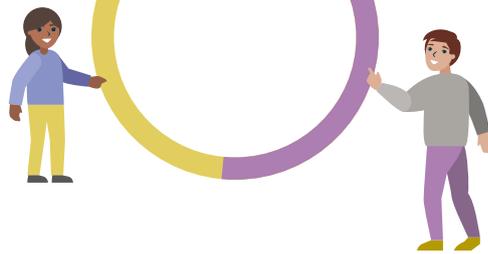
19,070
births (2024)



393,430
children & young people
aged 0-19 (1.1.2025)

190,306
girls

203,124
boys



44
hospitals (2023)



4,485
resident specialist physicians (2024)

109
underground stops (U-Bahn) (2024)



1,146
tramway stops (2024)



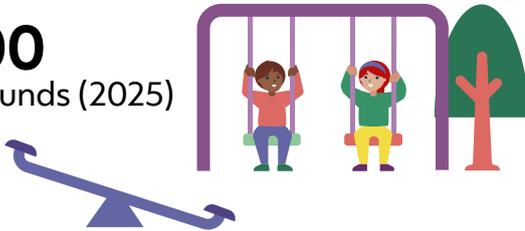
4,469
bus stops (2024)



872.8 million
passengers using
Wiener Linien (2024)

Sports and leisure

1,800
playgrounds (2025)



159
major sports complexes
over 1,000 m² (2024)

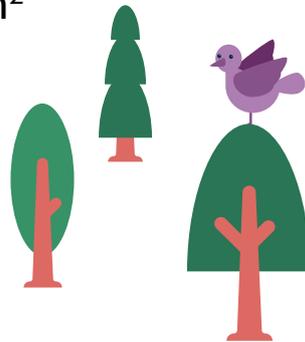


1,014
city parks (2025)

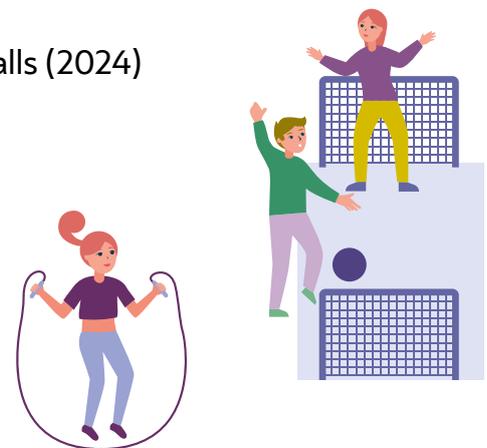
13,234.323 m²
total park area

202,488
trees

20,887
benches



17
sports halls (2024)



Vienna's Children and Youth Work

80
locations (youth centres,
clubs, points of contact)



160
supervised
parks

350+
public locations
regularly visited

Vienna Schools

737
schools (2023/24)

29,474
teachers (2023/24)

259,056
pupils (2023/24)



Children in Early Education Institutions

97,641
children total (2023/24)

26,017
under the age of 3



Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030

Guiding the Way to the World’s Most Child-Friendly City

The City of Vienna’s Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030 builds on and further develops the first Children and Youth Strategy (2020–2025). Like its predecessor, this new Strategy is based on a comprehensive consultation and participation process, aimed at learning directly from children and young people in Vienna about their ideas and visions.

The new Strategy rests on three pillars: The first is the Children and Youth Strategy 2020–2025, which set new standards in young people’s participation through its *Werkstadt Junges Wien* (‘Young Vienna Workshop’) project. The second pillar is a major survey of children and young people conducted in autumn 2024 by the Institute for Empirical Social Studies (IFES) on behalf of WIENXTRA, in which around 2,000 children and young people took part. The third pillar consists of the results of Vienna’s Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25.

As part of this process, around 300 delegates – each an expert in their own living environments – contributed to the new Strategy’s content through nine themed committees over several months.

The new Children and Youth Strategy reveals what is on the minds of young people in mid-2020s Vienna, a time marked by the aftermath of a pandemic, wars, crises and societal changes. It highlights their needs, the areas they wish to see change in, and what they appreciate and find works well for them. The Strategy shows how young people perceive their city today and presents their visions for a child- and youth-friendly future. Over the coming years, these visions will serve as a compass for city politics, guiding efforts to make Vienna the most child- and youth-friendly city in the world.

The Strategy is conceived as a forward-looking, integrative framework that places the needs of young people at the centre. It is structured around the subject areas that children and young people consider important and that shape their lives – from climate, mobility and leisure time, school and work to healthcare, safety and security, culture and democracy. Drawing on the results of child and youth participation, the City of Vienna has set goals and identified key fields of action across all subject areas.

Topics that affect all areas of life are addressed as cross-cutting issues within the Strategy. These include, for example, poverty, gender, disability, sexual orientation and experiences with racism. Such issues must be at the centre of a children and youth policy which leaves no-one behind. The ever-growing impact of digitisation – particularly through social media – is another topic that affects all areas of life.

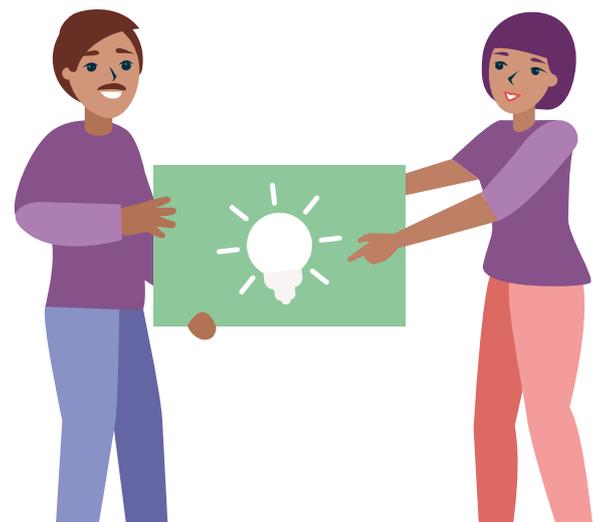
The Children and Youth Strategy is aligned with other overarching strategies of the City of Vienna, such as the Smart City Climate Strategy and the Viennese Democracy Strategy. Strengthening democratic participation and further expanding opportunities for involvement are important goals that are also central to this Strategy. It aims to ensure that Vienna's young people are not only heard but can also actively participate in decision-making processes, in line with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and a vibrant, inclusive democracy.

What's next? Over the next five years, the Children and Youth Parliament will take on the task of developing concrete measures and recommendations based on the goals and fields of action described here. To this end, it will work together with the City Administration in co-creative processes. The resulting catalogue of measures will be discussed annually with

policy makers and in the Vienna City Council, before being implemented step by step by the City of Vienna. Progress in implementation will be reviewed annually; by the Parliament itself, and by Vienna's Children and Youth Ombuds-Office (KIJA), which is responsible for monitoring the present Children and Youth Strategy.

Thus, the Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030 is not a final completed plan. For the City of Vienna, it provides an essential basis for action and a mandate to get to work. It sets out expectations, defines objectives and fields of action and establishes that young people in Vienna can continue to participate in discussions and decisions – just as stipulated in children's rights.

The WIENXTRA- Junges Wien Team



Children's Rights - Universal Rights for All Children

Children's rights provide the framework that ensures children can grow up in a world that protects them, supports them and offers opportunities for development. Although this goal has not yet been fully achieved everywhere, children's rights represent an important step toward a fairer, healthier and more stable future for children and for society as a whole.

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD - IN FORCE FOR 35 YEARS

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and came into effect in 1990. This pioneering international agreement ratified by almost all member states, defines comprehensive rights – from protection measures to the right to education and participation. Austria ratified the Convention in 1992 and has since been committed to actively implementing and promoting its key provisions.

On 20 January 2011, the National Council also passed Austria's Federal Constitutional Act on the Rights of Children, giving key provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutional status.

Moreover, there are other international human rights agreements, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, which implicitly support the protection of children by requiring that their needs be taken into account in political, social and legal structures.

THE 4 BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Non-discrimination:

All children have equal rights. No child must be discriminated against on the basis of sex, nationality, ethnic or social origin, religion, language, skin colour or disability.

Best Interests of the Child:

In all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

Right to Life, Survival and Development:

Every child has the inherent right to life and the right to grow up in an environment that supports their physical, mental and social development.

Participation:

Children are to be respected as individuals and have the right to participate in all decisions that affect their lives.



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

For children and young people, the digital and analogue worlds are closely intertwined. They scroll, play and post while exploring their cities, meeting friends or doing homework together. The boundaries between offline and online often blur. Precisely because children and young people today engage so seamlessly with digital life, it is essential that their rights are protected in both the digital and analogue realms. This is why the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child published General Comment No. 25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment in 2021. The following rights and core values are particularly important:



Scan for more details
on children's rights
in the digital world!

Right to be Protected from Violence, Exploitation and Discrimination:

Children and young people must be protected from hate, violence, bullying and disturbing content online. Special attention is paid to protection from sexualised violence. Children's privacy is particularly safeguarded, which is why data privacy and minimal data collection must be ensured.

Right to Support and Development:

Digital offers should support children and young people. Young people should have the opportunity to connect with others, exchange ideas and form groups. Digital learning opportunities must be accessible to all children, regardless of their background or family income. This is why digital skills should be included in school curricula.

Right to Participate and Freedom of Expression:

Children and young people have the right to express their opinions and to be heard, and the digital world offers a particularly good platform for this. Platforms must therefore be designed in an age-appropriate way and take children's perspectives into account. Children must have free access to information and be able to express their opinions without being affected by surveillance, advertising or automated content.

Vienna - City of Human Rights

By declaring Vienna a City of Human Rights, the Vienna City Council resolved in December 2014 to integrate human rights as a cross-cutting principle in Vienna's policies and administration. The Children and Youth Strategy marks a logical and necessary step in this process. The City of Vienna has set itself the goal of becoming the world's most child- and youth-friendly city. To achieve this ambition, numerous measures have already been implemented: In many areas, Vienna is a pioneer in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Strategy Development

The first Children and Youth Strategy was developed and successfully implemented in close collaboration with young people.

Municipal Commitment

Many of the City's Municipal Departments are working on making young people's lives in Vienna better and strengthening their rights. The Municipal Department for kindergartens, for instance, provides high-quality early-childhood education in municipal childcare facilities and supports private providers of early childhood education. The Child and Youth Welfare Service supports children, young people and families in difficult situations. Through educational and leisure time offers, the Municipal Department for Education and Youth accompanies young people on their paths. The Children and Youth Ombuds-Office (KIJA) and the City's Human Rights Office focus specifically on children and young people's rights.

Education and Equality of Opportunities

Vienna promotes equal opportunities through the expansion of all-day school services and high-quality educational programmes, such as Wiener Lernhilfe (a free after-school tutoring programme) and Wiener Bildungschancen (a public project covering the costs of supplementary activities such as workshops in schools). In addition, the city is expanding early childhood education institutions, developing out-of-school educational and leisure-time learning opportunities and implementing targeted support measures that help children and young people acquire educational competence. These measures include the deployment of language support staff and speech counsellors, as well as initiatives such as Teach for Austria, Pro Mente, Startklar, and Reading Mentors.

Leisure, Sports and Culture

A broad and diverse range of offers helps ensure that young people have the right, the resources, the space and, where needed, the support to develop actively and creatively.

Climate Protection

Vienna's Smart City Climate Strategy and Climate Guide also take the needs of young people into account.

Protection in the Digital World

Information, counselling and training programmes protect children and young people in the digital sphere.

MILESTONES

- 2014: Vienna declares itself a 'City of Human Rights': With this declaration, Vienna affirmed its commitment to upholding the human rights of all residents, including the rights of children.
- 2019: Launch of the Werkstatt Junges Wien project: For the first time, a children and youth strategy was developed within this participatory project, involving around 22,000 children and young people.
- 2020 Adoption of Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy 2020 to 2025: The Vienna City Council established 193 measures aimed at making Vienna the most child- and youth-friendly city in the world.
- Februar 2024: UNICEF 'Child-Friendly City' certificate: Vienna started the process of becoming a certified 'child-friendly city', aiming to implement at least three measures in seven areas related to children's rights by 2027.
- 'Inclusive Vienna 2030 - A City for All': The project seeks to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities in Vienna. People with disabilities, partner organisations, city staff, interest groups and experts have jointly developed measures to promote inclusion in the city.

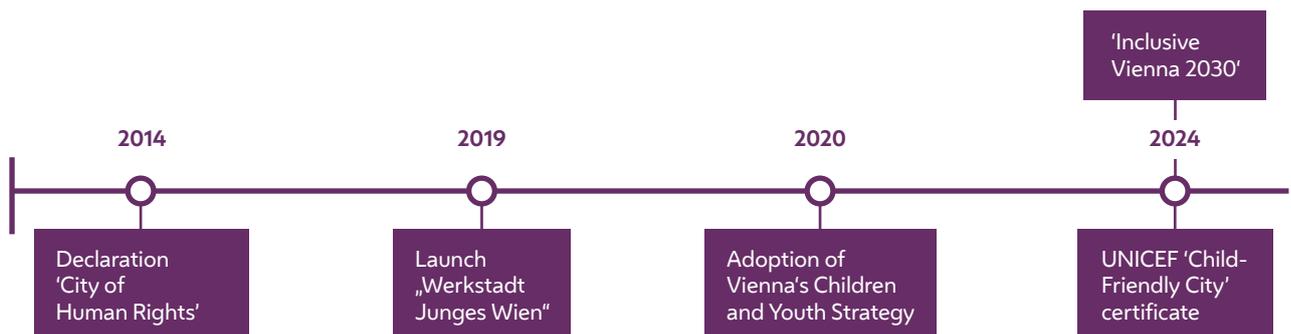
**PARTICIPATION:
A LEGAL RIGHT WITH
MANY BENEFITS**

Participation means actively taking part in societal processes and political decisions. Children and young people have the right to be involved in all matters that affect them. Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union guarantee this right. In Austria, the rights of children are also enshrined as a constitutional right in Article 4 of the Federal Constitutional Law. This means that participation is more than a voluntary option. It is a legal obligation!

A major challenge is that an increasing number of young people are excluded from elections because of their citizenship. Therefore, the City of Vienna ensures that young residents can participate and help shape their city at various levels, regardless of formal voting rights.

Benefits of Participation:

- Young people experience how they can bring about change through participation and improve their quality of life.
- It promotes their commitment and sharpens their sense of personal and social responsibility.
- It sharpens their awareness of the realities of their own lives and the needs of others, thereby increasing their willingness to act in solidarity.
- It strengthens their identification with their social environment, school, public institutions, and the city as a whole.
- It allows them to experience democracy firsthand and develop their democratic skills.
- Adults receive valuable insights into the needs and visions of the city's young generation.
- It enables policymakers to allocate funds more effectively and engage in a direct exchange with children and young people.



PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN VIENNA

The City of Vienna provides young inhabitants with a wide range of opportunities for participation:

• District Children and Youth Parliaments:

Most of Vienna's districts fund local children's and/or youth parliaments, which are run in cooperation with open children and youth work associations. These district parliaments allow children and young people to contribute, discuss and make decisions about their wishes and ideas for their residential and living environments.

• Vienna-wide Children and Youth Parliament:

Children and young people from all of Vienna's districts come together in this forum to discuss their ideas and needs. They engage in dialogue with politicians and representatives of the City Administration with the aim of actively shaping their city. Over the next five years, delegates will develop concrete measures and recommendations related to the thematic areas and fields of action of the Children and Youth Strategy 20252030, which will then be submitted to the City Council.

• Participatory Children and Youth Million:

By 2025, the Participatory Children and Youth Million project has been implemented twice already. This pioneering initiative allows children and young people to decide how 1 million Euro of the city's budget is spent. Vienna residents aged 5 to 20 can submit project ideas, develop them in workshops and co-decide through an online vote which projects will be implemented.

• Participation in Schools:

Children and young people in Vienna participate in school life through the election of class representatives and student councils. Student representatives act as a voice for their fellow pupils and elect Vienna's Provincial Student Council, the legal body representing all Viennese pupils. Among other responsibilities, the Council organises Vienna's Student Parliament. Student representatives in lower grades are supported in their tasks by the SMG Schüler*innenMitGestaltung ('Student Participation') programme.

• Participation in Open Children and Youth Work Institutions:

Participation is a funding requirement in Vienna's Children and Youth Work programme. In the city's youth institutions, children and young people can actively contribute their opinions and ideas, and are supported in implementing them.

• Digital Participation:

Through the participation platform mitgestalten.wien.gv.at children and young people can participate in shaping public spaces online, whether in projects or strategic planning processes. Participation is often possible without a City of Vienna account, on mobile devices, and designed to be as low-threshold and inclusive as possible. When evaluating contributions, age and gender differentiation is taken into account in order to make diverse perspectives visible and deliberately integrate them into the city's development.

• Other City of Vienna Participation Offers

In addition to the initiatives listed above, the City of Vienna offers many other opportunities for participation at various levels, aimed at all citizens, including children and young people. These include the office hours of district chairpersons, citizen participation in city development, the Climate Team, participatory budgeting initiatives, Wiener Linien's Öffi-Denkwerkstatt ('Public Transport Think Tanks'), the Werkstatt für Mitwirkung ('Workshop for Participation') and the Area Renewal Office's Nachbarschatz ('Neighbourhood Treasures') project. Initiatives such as Grätzllabor ('Neighbourhood Laboratory') and Grätzloase ('Neighbourhood Oasis') by the Lokale Agenda 21 Association, the Grätzlmarie ('Neighbourhood Money') funding programme and wohnpartner's Demokratie-Cafés provide opportunities for active participation.



Delegierte*r
des Wiener
Kinderparlaments
2024/25
Stadt Wien

Delegierte*r
des Wiener
Kinderparlaments
2024/25
Stadt Wien

Das
bin ich.

JUNGES WIEN
Stadt Wien

Werkstadt Junges Wien: Pioneering Participation

Who better to express their needs than children and young people themselves? This is why the City of Vienna launched its large-scale Werkstadt Junges Wien project in 2019. This pioneering participation project is regarded as the start of many other initiatives developed and implemented within the framework of the Children and Youth Strategy, including the Vienna Children and Youth Parliament and the Participatory Children and Youth Million.

The Idea

The starting point of the project was the commitment to strengthen the involvement of Vienna's young people and ensure their voices are heard. Werkstadt Junges Wien was developed to gather the wishes and visions of children and young people on a wide scale.

The Path

In more than 1,300 workshops across Vienna, children and young people 'got to work' on improving their city between February and April 2019, focusing on the places they visit in their daily lives: kindergartens, after-school centres and schools, youth centres, parks, clubs and many more. In the process, they extensively discussed issues concerning their lives and futures.

The Goal

The project aimed to actively involve thousands of young people in shaping their future. Key questions included: What do you like about your city? What do you dislike? What would you change? What are your wishes for the future?

The Result

Facilitated by educators, youth and social workers and volunteers, more than 22,000 children and young people from Vienna took part. The insights obtained formed the basis for the first Children and Youth Strategy, which was adopted in spring 2020, an important step to ensure that children and young people can continue to thrive and develop in Vienna.





Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy 2020–2025: 9 Goals & 193 Measures

The Vienna City Council passed the first major Children and Youth Strategy in June 2020. The Strategy contains nine goals and 193 concrete measures designed to make the lives of young people in Vienna even better. Since then, many city departments have been working on implementing them. A large number of the measures have already been realised, many are currently in progress and only a few are still waiting to be addressed.

Each year, progress on the measure's implementation was reviewed and documented: by the Children and Youth Ombuds-Office (KIJA) in an annual report, as well as by Vienna's Children and Youth Parliament and Junges Wien, and the Coordination Office of Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy.

All 193 measures and their current implementation status can be found here:



VIENNA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARLIAMENT

One of the central measures of the Vienna Children and Youth Strategy 2020–2025 was the creation of a Children and Youth Parliament for all of Vienna. It gives children and young people the opportunity to submit their own ideas and help shape the future of their city. It encourages them to engage in discussions on political issues that affect them and to express their opinions. Moreover, it allows them to interact directly with city politicians and experience politics first-hand.



2022 Launch with Three Days of Plenary Sessions

The first Vienna Children and Youth Parliament met on three days in 2022, with the young delegates discussing ideas for the future of their city. In themed committees, they prioritised the measures of the Children and Youth Strategy 2020–2025 and developed statements on them.

2023/24 Second Round with a Monitoring Mandate

The second Vienna Children and Youth Parliament took place over three sessions in the school year of 2023/24. In a playful way, the participants learned basic concepts of city politics and engaged in in-depth discussions in themed committees. They reviewed the 193 measures of the Vienna Children and Youth Strategy 2020–2025, asking: What is working well? What is not? What is still missing?

2024/25 Working on the New Strategy

The most time- and labour-intensive Children and Youth Parliament to date took place between November 2024 and April 2025. 90 youth delegates and 235 children faced a special challenge: They contributed to shaping the content of the new Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030. In nine committees, they debated, exchanged ideas with experts and developed goals and fields of action. As in previous years, the delegates of the Children and Youth Parliament engaged in dialogue with politicians. Ideas and measures were presented and discussed

with members of the City Government and members of the City Council. The results of this parliamentary work are now incorporated into the present Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030.

THE PARTICIPATORY CHILDREN AND YOUTH MILLION

The Participatory Children and Youth Million is another initiative that emerged from the Children and Youth Strategy 2020–2025. It contributes to making participation a permanent part of city life. Within this pioneering participatory project, the City of Vienna provides 1 million Euro to help turn the ideas of children and young people into reality. What makes it special is that young people from Vienna not only submit their own suggestions but also vote on which projects are to be implemented. In this way, they actively help shape their city. By 2025, two project cycles have already been successfully completed.

Submitting Ideas

At the start of every Children and Youth Million project cycle, all Viennese residents between the ages of 5 and 20 are invited to submit their ideas for the Vienna of tomorrow. Individuals as well as associations, schools, kindergartens, and open child and youth work institutions are encouraged to participate. The only requirement is that the ideas must come from young people based in Vienna.

Co-creative Idea Development

The submitted ideas are reviewed for feasibility by the City Administration and districts in a quick-review procedure. In the subsequent co-creation phase, children and young people collaborate with City Administration and district staff in workshops to develop the ideas into viable projects.

Online Vote

Afterwards, all children and young people aged 5 to 20 based in Vienna are invited to vote online on which projects will be implemented with the 1 million Euro in funding. The winning projects are then submitted to the City Council and implemented by the relevant Municipal Departments.

2021/22 Launch with 20 Winning Projects

More than 200 ideas were submitted to the first Children and Youth Million in 2021, 67 of which were put to a vote. 20 projects were ultimately selected for implementation. Examples include a drinking fountain at the Karl-Wrba-Hof municipal housing estate, free menstrual products in schools, a wheelchair and bicycle park at Wienerberg, and the Flopsy Project, which funds clinical psychological support in youth centres in the Floridsdorf district.



2023/24 Amazing Ideas: from Swimming Lessons to Graffiti Walls

The second round of Vienna's Children and Youth Million in autumn 2023 received over 220 submissions, 49 of which were put to a vote. 4,714 Viennese residents aged 5 to 20 cast their ballots. The ten winning projects included an open-air cinema event for young people, free swimming lessons, pop-up graffiti walls and free self-defence lessons at schools and youth centres, promoting violence prevention and de-escalation.



MORE EXAMPLES OF IMPLEMENTED MEASURES AT A GLANCE

In addition to the Children and Youth Parliament and the Children and Youth Million, many other measures resulting from the first Children and Youth Strategy, which promote young people's participation in the city, have been implemented in recent years. The following is a small selection of the projects Vienna is proud of:

Vienna Children and Youth Digital Rights Charter

In an increasingly connected world, it is important for children and young people to know and exercise their rights in the digital realm. For this reason, the City of Vienna developed the Vienna Children and Youth Digital Rights Charter together with young people. It sets out core principles that define how the City of Vienna can strengthen and protect the rights of young people in the digital space. The project is being implemented by the City of Vienna's Human Rights Office in cooperation with the Children and Youth Ombuds-Office (KIJA), Municipal Departments and the Vienna Business Agency.

Guideline for Dialogue on Equal Footing

A newly developed 'Guideline for Dialogue on Equal Footing' is one of the measures of the Children and Youth Strategy 2020–2025. It is a valuable tool for district and city politics, City Administration staff and open children and youth work professionals. Based on twelve guiding principles, the guideline outlines what is needed for long-term and high-quality involvement of children and young people – covering a wide range of topics, from accountability and transparency to public relations. Additionally, the publication offers practical tips for successful participation processes.



Vienna Volunteer Week

Promoting children's and young people's social engagement is the aim of the annual Vienna Volunteer Week, which was first held in 2021. In line with its slogan 'Einfach machen' ('Get involved'), motivated pupils collaborate with NGOs, charitable organisations and associations and are given the opportunity to work on projects benefiting society, the environment and their city. In the process, children and young people learn the value of charitable work and experience the impact they can have in a society characterised by solidarity. By 2025, more than 20,000 Viennese pupils from around 770 school classes had taken part in Volunteer Week.





A photograph of three children sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. On the left is a girl with long brown hair wearing a denim jacket. In the middle is a boy with dark hair wearing a blue t-shirt with a graphic that says 'IMPOSTOR'. On the right is a girl with brown hair tied back wearing a grey ribbed hoodie. They are all smiling and holding a large red sign. The background shows a multi-story building with windows and some greenery.

**Ermöglicht
mit der
Kinder- und
Jugendmillion.**



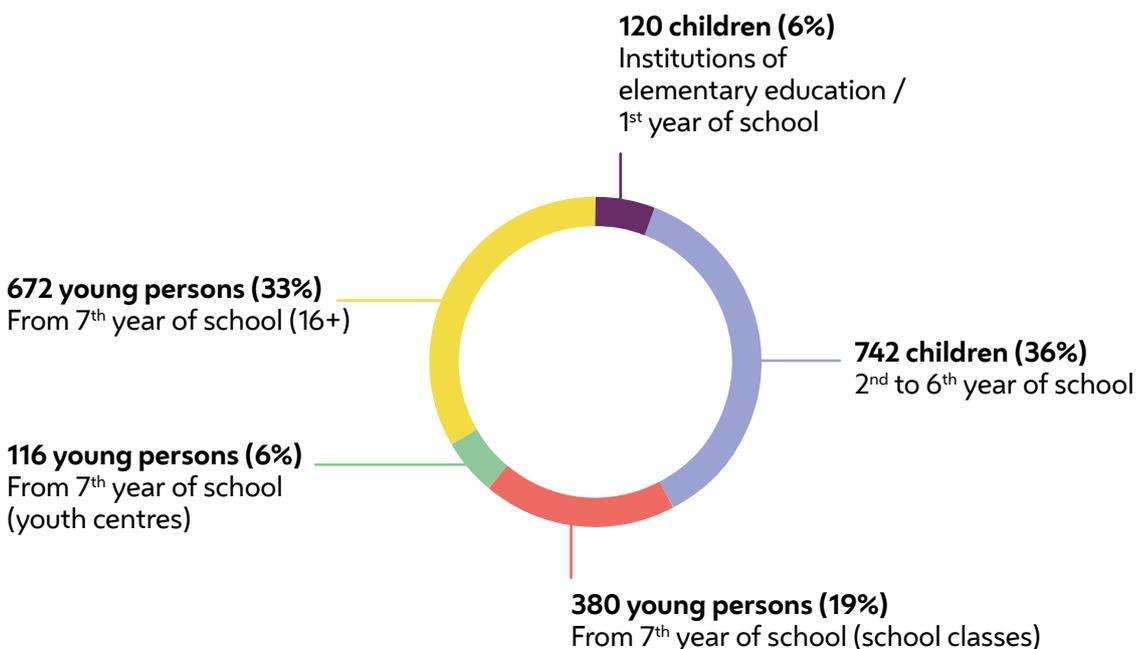
**Stadt
Wien**

Insights from the Large-Scale Survey on Children and Youth in Vienna

In autumn 2024, the City of Vienna asked children and young people about their satisfaction in life and their ideas on how to improve the city. The survey was conducted by the Institute for Empirical Social Studies on behalf of WIENXTRA. It aimed to capture the opinions of young people in Vienna. The results were subsequently integrated into the current Children and Youth Strategy.

METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE

The survey took place between 16 September and 4 November 2024. 2,030 young people returned their feedback, and the total sample was divided into various age groups:



THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS

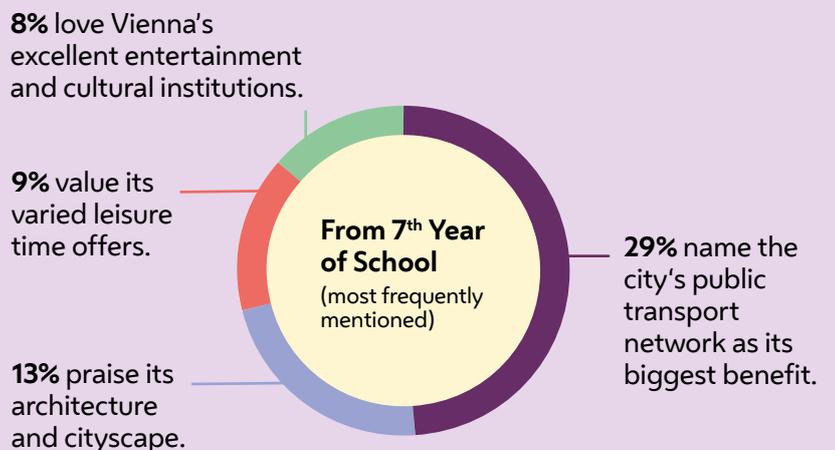
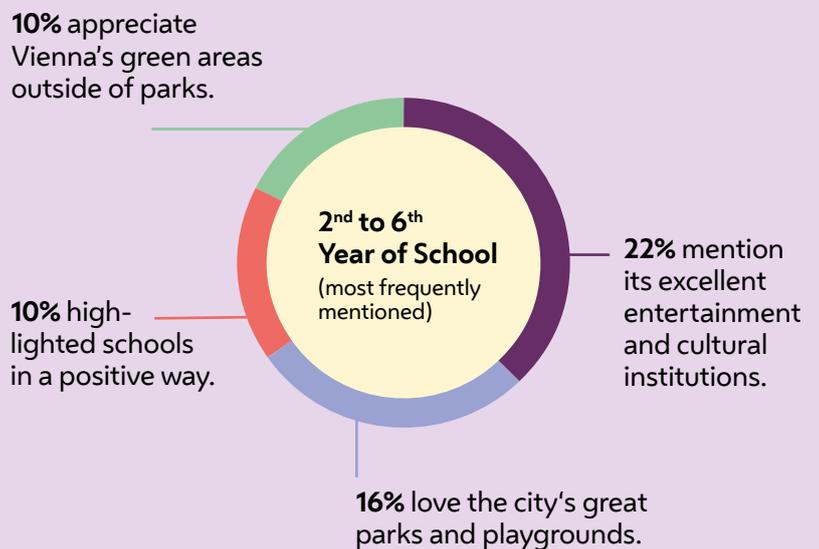
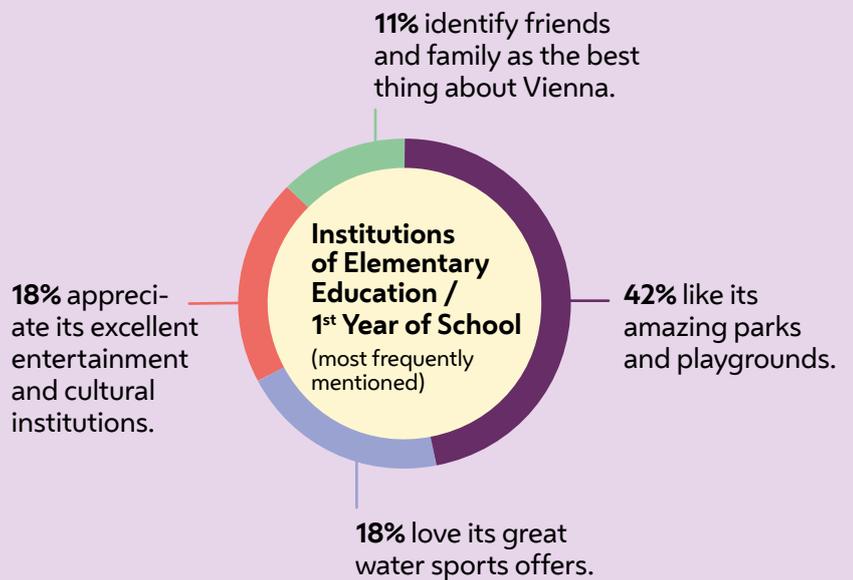
1. Children and Young People Enjoy Living in Vienna.

The overwhelming majority of children and young people surveyed are satisfied with living in Vienna. 86% of respondents stated that they 'like' or 'very much like' living in Vienna. Most young people see Vienna as a city which offers them a lot and in which they can thrive.



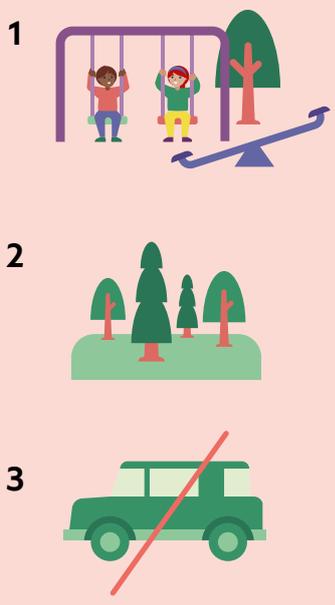
2. What Do They Like Most About Vienna?

Above all, children and young people value Vienna's varied leisure offers, its good public transport network and its beautiful architecture. Their preferences vary by age group:



3. What Would Children and Young People Like to See Improved?

Overall, children and young people are satisfied with living in Vienna. However, they also have very clear ideas about what could be improved. Their priorities vary by age group:

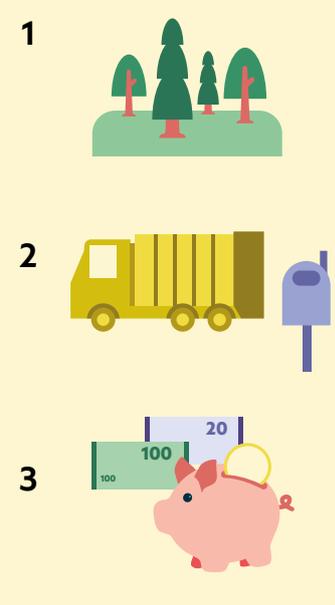


1

2

3

Younger Children
(Institutions of elementary education + 1st year of school) would like to see **more playgrounds** (19%), more green areas in the city (14%) and fewer cars.

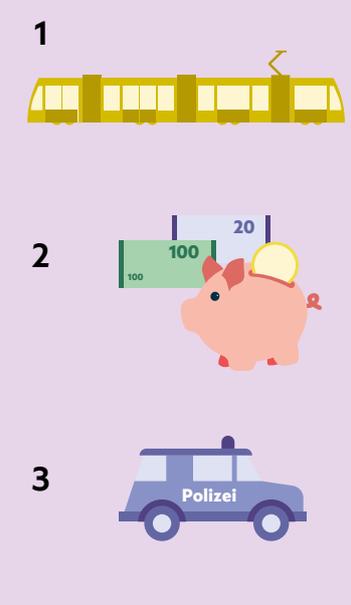


1

2

3

Children in 2nd to 6th Year of School
long for **more green areas** (20%), improved cleanliness in public spaces (15%) and lower prices for everyday items (9%).



1

2

3

Young People (from 7th Year of School)
want **more and better public transport** (11%), affordable living (9%) and increased safety & security in public spaces (9%).

4. What Issues do Young People See?

Children and young people were also asked about how they perceive their environment. The results highlight which aspects of public space they consider particularly problematic and challenging.

- **Waste in public areas:**

A significant portion of respondents (78%) see waste in public spaces as a 'big' or 'rather big' problem.

- **Damage in public spaces:**

58% of respondents view damage in public spaces as a 'big' or 'rather big' problem.

- **Noise:**

Noise pollution is another issue regarded by the majority of children and young people (54%) as a 'big' or 'rather big' problem.

- **Summer heat:**

Many children and young people (51%) report that summer heat in the city affects them negatively and see it as a 'big' or 'rather big' issue.

- **Air quality:**

48% of respondents are critical of Vienna's air quality, classifying it as a 'big' or 'rather big' problem.

5. Young People's Sense of Safety in Vienna

The sense of safety among children and young people in Vienna varies. 64% of respondents (from 2nd year of school) report feeling 'safe' or 'rather safe' in Vienna. Differences between genders were relatively small, whereas differences across age groups were more pronounced.

- Boys feel slightly safer than girls: 65% of male respondents report that they feel 'safe' or 'rather safe'.

Among girls and young women, this figure drops to 62%, and only 19% of them feel 'very safe', compared with 29% of male respondents.

- Children feel safer than teenagers:

Children aged 8 to 9 feel safest: within this age group, 77% stated that they feel 'safe' or 'rather safe' in Vienna.

From this age onwards, the sense of safety gradually decreases, reaching its lowest point among teenagers aged 16 to 17, with only 43% reporting that they feel 'safe' or 'rather safe'.

After this age, the sense of safety rises again, reaching 59% among 20-year-olds.

- What do children and young people need to feel safer? Among respondents, the most frequently mentioned need was for more security checks in public spaces. In addition, young people in Vienna generally wish for more respectful interactions and improved lighting in public spaces.

Scan to read the entire study:



The Topics of Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030

What's on the minds of children and young people in Vienna? What do they like? What don't they? What do they wish for and what ideas do they have for an even better Vienna? The following pages provide comprehensive answers to all these questions.

The identification of topics was based on the contents of the Children and Youth Strategy 2020–2025, the results of the IFES study from 2024, and the results of the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25. The latter met between November 2024 and April 2025 and extensively worked on the contents of the present Strategy in nine thematic committees. With their willingness to engage and express their convictions, the participants of the Children and Youth Parliament have once again shown how important opportunities for active participation are. Their statements will guide city politics for the next few years and help turn Vienna into the world's most child- and youth-friendly city.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES: RECOGNISING DIVERSITY, CREATING JUSTICE

Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030 is based on human rights. Democracy and the rule of law are mandatory when it comes to creating the institutional and legal framework to effectively protect and enforce human rights. A pluralistic democracy is based on recognising diversity, freedom of speech and tolerance. These are not only prerequisites for peaceful coexistence, they also express that everyone's dignity is respected.

Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030 represents a forward-looking and inclusive framework, which places the needs of all young people at the centre. One thing is certain: No child and no adolescent is 'just' a child or adolescent. They all bring their own experiences, challenges, skills and lived realities.

To reflect this diversity, the Strategy was designed intersectionally from the outset, specifically addressing cross-cutting issues that affect many areas of life, with the aim of both making inequalities visible and combating them.

These topics include poverty and social status, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBTIQ), experiences of racism and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion and language. At the same time, digitisation plays an important role in all areas of children's and young people's lives. These are not marginal topics, but cross-cutting dimensions which influence each other. They must be placed at the heart of an inclusive children and youth policy which leaves no-one behind. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provides the relevant framework for orientation.

Poverty Is More Than Just a Lack of Money

In Vienna, poverty affects many young people, either directly or through their social environment. It is not only reflected in empty wallets, but also in cramped living conditions, limited mobility, reduced educational opportunities and the feeling of exclusion. Additionally, the results of climate change disproportionately affect people who experience poverty. The Strategy recognises that combating poverty is a systemic issue. Early support, affordable leisure offers, free learning tools and psychosocial counselling are just a few of the measures



the City uses to actively address these issues. The aim is not merely to alleviate symptoms, but to tackle their root causes structurally.

Gender-Sensitive Offers Strengthen Everyone

Gender is not neutral – as shown by numerous studies and everyday experience in children and youth work. Girls, boys, trans persons and non-binary young people face different expectations, stereotypes and barriers. The present Strategy consistently aims to ensure that initiatives are designed in a gender-sensitive way: from informative and empowering programmes for girls, to awareness-raising initiatives for boys, to trans-inclusive projects. In this context, gender justice is not a side issue, but a requirement for all measures. We need to continue to promote the self-worth of girls and protect them from gender-based violence, both offline and online. When it comes to career choices and leisure activities, children and young people need offers that reflect and challenge traditional gender roles. Additionally, young people need support in choosing and accessing contraceptives.

Making Different Identities Visible, Including LGBTIQ

Young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer or inter have a right to protection, visibility and self-determination. Many experience marginalisation, bullying and anxiety – especially in schools, on social media or in their families. The Children and Youth Strategy takes these realities of life into account. It specifically promotes queer-sensitive offers,

professional training for staff, and safe(r) spaces where young people can thrive. After all, belonging also means not having to hide.

Living Inclusion, Breaking down Barriers

The rights of children and young people with disabilities (physical, mental or psychological) are non-negotiable. However, their participation does not happen automatically. Barriers must be eliminated – in buildings, on websites, during events, but also in the way we think. The Strategy follows the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, consistently pursuing an inclusive approach: Children and young people with disabilities are involved in the planning, design and evaluation of offers. Participation is not just a means to an end. It is a goal. The City of Vienna promotes individual support services but also seeks to create an environment that allows for or does not prevent participation and self-determination.

Identifying Racism, Combating Marginalisation

Racism wears many masks: from open hostility to subtle marginalisation in everyday life. National origin, language, religion, immigration background and experiences of displacement can lead to social disadvantages. Children and young people experience racialised stereotypes and hostility, structural disadvantages and institutional discrimination. Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy takes racism seriously, not as an individual issue, but as a societal reality. It seeks to protect those affected while expanding their scope for action.

Anti-racism work means making the perspectives of young people who experience racism visible, strengthening their self-organisation and creating spaces for empowerment. But it is also about critically engaging with power structures – in educational institutions, in the leisure sector, within municipal authorities and in public spaces. A child- and youth-friendly city is only truly just if no one faces disadvantage because of their skin colour, origin, religion or language.

Recognising Intersectionality

Discrimination rarely occurs in isolation; different forms of disadvantage often intersect and reinforce each other. Various forms of discrimination can overlap for an individual person, creating complex inequalities. Therefore, Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy understands intersectionality not only as an analytical concept, but also as a concrete guiding principle: It highlights how societal structures contribute to instances of multiple discrimination and how the City of Vienna can respond effectively.



Digitisation: Seizing Opportunities, Identifying Risks

Today's children and young people grow up in a digital world full of both potential and challenges. In the present Strategy digitisation is more than a technical side issue – it is a constant in almost all areas of life. While it offers opportunities and can optimise processes, digitisation also carries risks. Media literacy, protection from digital violence, responsible use of social media and data privacy are therefore part of the Strategy, as is access to digital devices and learning platforms. Marginalised groups, in particular, require targeted support to ensure they are not excluded from digital participation.

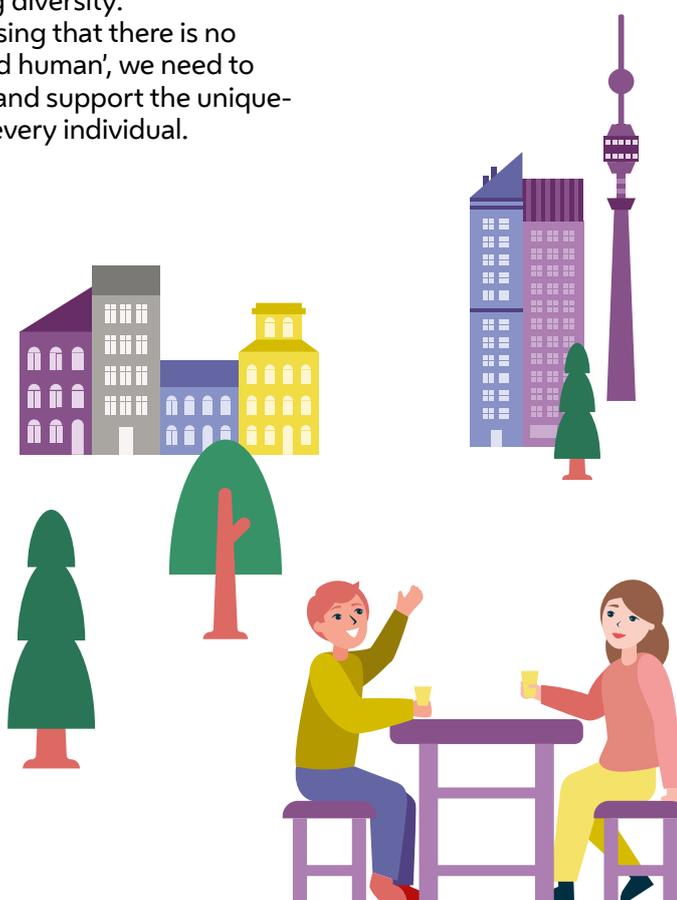
One Strategy for All, by All

The Children and Youth Strategy was developed in a participatory way. The voices of young people with diverse experiences and perspectives were not only welcomed, but central. The Strategy represents a learning document – open to further development, revision and additions. This approach is essential in cross-cutting areas, as societal realities change and children and young people are the experts for their own lives.

A city that takes diversity seriously knows that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions. But we do have a shared goal: to create an inclusive, just, child- and youth-friendly city where all young people feel included, are heard and can thrive.

Prerequisites for Successful Implementation:

- Promoting participation:
All children and young people shall be able to actively contribute to city life and benefit from it, regardless of their background, skills and challenges.
- Breaking down barriers:
Barriers of access and participation of all kinds must be identified in order to be addressed and eliminated.
- Creating awareness:
Creating awareness means questioning one's own prejudices, identifying structural discrimination and actively changing discriminatory dynamics.
- Valuing diversity:
Recognising that there is no 'standard human', we need to respect and support the uniqueness of every individual.



Core Principles of the Vienna Children and Youth Strategy:

- Sustainability:

All measures shall promote the sustained inclusion of children and young people.

- Based on human rights:

The City operates in accordance with the Federal Constitutional Law on the Rights of the Child and thus with UN Conventions, other human rights agreements and fundamental rights.

- Togetherness:

Vienna does not plan and think for, but predominantly with those affected. This means understanding needs and thereby being able to identify barriers and invite participation.

- Empowerment:

Children and young people, as well as their structures and associations are to be strengthened in order to foster autonomy and self-determination and to increase participation.

- Cooperation:

To achieve this, Vienna is not reinventing the wheel, but is cooperating with experts from practice and research.

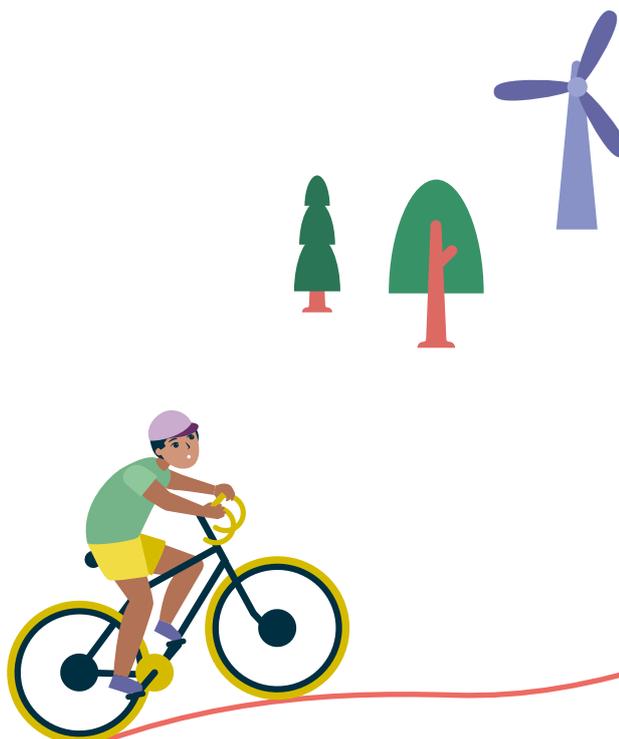
- Reducing barriers:

Barriers can only be removed once a need or issue can be identified, understood, addressed and consequently acted upon.

BUILDING THE STRATEGY: GOALS AND FIELDS OF ACTION

The Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030 is structured around eight thematic areas. For each topic area, overarching targets were formulated and specific fields of action defined. The latter are largely based on the suggestions, ideas and wishes contributed by children and young people. In some cases, experts working for the City of Vienna proposed entire fields of action; these are separately marked. The Strategy's fields of action specify where city policy can and should take action in order to reach the Strategy's goals.

Every topic area includes 'idea boxes' containing recommendations and wishes for measures formulated by the delegates of the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25.



Climate, Nature and Environment



WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

All children and young people in Vienna grow up in a city that places great importance on nature and sustainability. Young people have access to clear information about climate and environmental issues and the opportunity to actively participate in shaping them.

FIELDS OF ACTION

1. More Plants & Nature for Humans and Animals

Vienna already is a green metropolis, offering lots of parks, meadows, woods and water areas. These ecosystems form the city's 'green lung'. More than 50% of Vienna's surface area are covered by vegetation. Children and young people value that. But they also know: We can still do better! They want to see even more nature in the city, more trees, more parks, more green façades, better air quality and more natural playgrounds with trees providing shade in the summer.

Wild green areas offering habitats for plants and animals are also important to Vienna's young residents. They want a city where there is room for bees, butterflies and birds. In their view, further urban development in Vienna should be carried out in a compact and thoughtful manner.

What the City Aims to Do

Vienna continues to pursue urban development that is as efficient as possible and minimises land consumption. Sealed surfaces will be further depaved wherever feasible. Woodland areas and green spaces are protected and expanded. This increases species diversity, improves the city climate and provides opportunities for recreation to its growing population.

With this approach, the city not only improves quality of life but also the mental health of its young inhabitants. Children who grow up close to green areas face a much lower risk of developing psychiatric disorders later on in life.



2. Active Climate and Environmental Protection

Knowing that our common future is at stake, children and young people boldly request more involvement in climate and environmental issues: They want to have a say in matters relating to climate and environmental protection and, more generally, to be involved in shaping public spaces in Vienna. Existing climate projects that encourage participation are therefore very popular among young people.

Young people in Vienna also know that they need solid knowledge and reliable information in order to participate in discussions. They demand more transparency in climate and environmental protection measures and request child- and youth-friendly information on what has already been implemented, what projects are in the works and what measures are planned for the future. Overall, they want more education and information on climate and environmental issues.

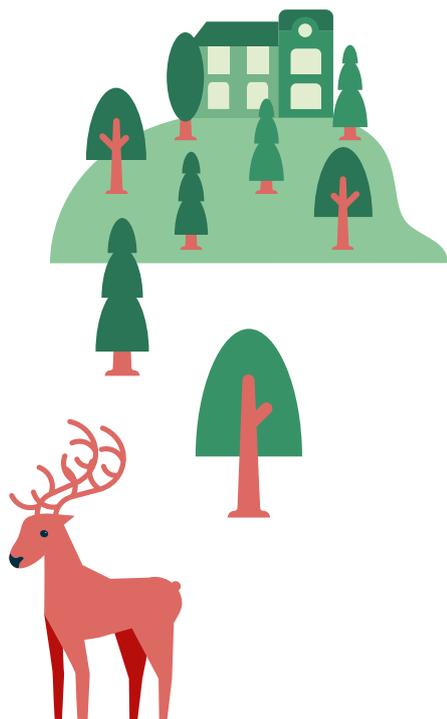
Children and young people are aware of the importance of responsible consumption for the climate and environment, and call for diverse initiatives promoting climate-friendly behaviour. In this context, they also highlight a social aspect: Climate and environmental subsidies should be available to all social groups, not only for expensive projects implemented by privileged people. That way, everyone can make a difference!

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna is committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2040. To reach this goal, we all need to work together.

In recent years, the City of Vienna has invested heavily in developing a respectful culture of participation, for instance through the Vienna Climate Team, the Participatory Children and Youth Million project and the Vienna Children and Youth Parliament. Efforts should continue to ensure that young people, in particular, can actively and independently contribute their experiences and creativity to the development and implementation of innovative climate and environmental protection projects. Expanding target-group-friendly educational offerings and easily understandable information on existing initiatives should provide them with a solid foundation for this.

When it comes to the topic of waste, for instance, Vienna aims to achieve 100% waste recycling by 2050, relying on the maxim of 'reduce, reuse, recycle'. In this context, it is important to introduce children and young people to concepts such as the circular economy and re-use in an age-appropriate way, and to create participatory initiatives through which Vienna's young residents can actively get involved.



3. Renewable Energy for All!

Children and young people welcome all efforts aimed at making Vienna climate-neutral. They want all public transport and households to be supplied with affordable renewable energy.

What the City Aims to Do

With its Climate Act, the City of Vienna has, for the first time, made its commitment to achieve climate-neutrality by 2040 legally binding. To reach this goal, it will continue to significantly expand renewable and decarbonised energy generation in Vienna: By 2030, half of Vienna's energy demand is expected to be covered by renewable or carbon-free sources, rising to 100% by 2040.



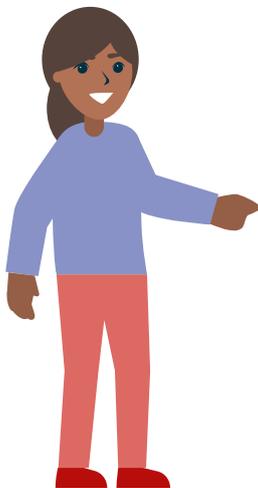
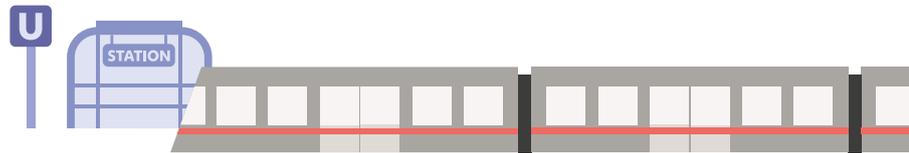
4. Less Waste, More Cleanliness

Vienna's children and young people want their city to be clean and inviting and they have loads of ideas on how to achieve this. They often point out how dirty natural and urban spaces are, with cigarette butts, dog faeces and litter in playgrounds, on streets, meadows and in Vienna's waterways being the most pressing issues.

The humorous slogans on waste bins provided by the Municipal Department for Waste Management are very popular among Vienna's young people. In order to motivate all city residents to keep Vienna clean, children and young people would like to see even more waste bins. In particular, they feel that more waste collection points should be created in residential complexes. Moreover, they think that efficient waste separation requires clear information and appealing campaigns.

What the City Aims to Do

The City increasingly relies on building awareness and actively involves all Vienna residents into its cleanliness strategy. Using workshops, participatory initiatives and creative formats the City seeks to further boost its residents' environmental awareness. Proven initiatives, such as 'Clean-Up Parties' in residential complexes of Wiener Wohnen (a large municipal housing provider), may provide inspiration. During these activities, children and young people can already learn about waste in a playful way.



Ideas Submitted by the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25's Climate, Nature and Environment Committee:

- Climate-friendly behaviour should be rewarded.
- More respect for wild animals.
- Expand car-free areas.
- More young people in decision-making roles, e.g. mandatory quota for young people in political office.
- More green spaces, less concrete.

Public Space and Mobility



WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Public spaces are for everyone. In Vienna, all children and young people are just as important in public spaces as adults. Their living environment provides space for playing, physical activity and recreation. Young people are considered in traffic planning and they can move safely and freely around the city.

FIELDS OF ACTION

1. Public Spaces to Feel Comfortable in – Without Pressure to Consume

Public spaces are living spaces for all generations. Children and young people experience their city in their own diverse ways. Being out and about in their city can be part of their everyday life or an adventure. Public spaces can offer freedom, places to retreat and spots to meet others.

Specifically, children and young people ask for places where they can meet outside their homes. They want publicly accessible, non-commercial spaces where they can chat, study, play or simply 'hang out' together. It is important to them that these places are well-designed, protected from the weather and pleasant in terms of temperatures.

Experience shows that young people make good use of these places and are drawn to stay when their basic needs are met. This requires proper infrastructure: Ample shaded seating, drinking fountains, and clean, free public restrooms are particularly important to Vienna's young residents. They also feel that free menstrual products should be available in these facilities.

In times of climate change, creating green and shaded public spaces is particularly important – especially for young city dwellers. After all, children face a particularly high risk of suffering from dehydration, heat stroke and circulatory issues.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna remains committed to developing responsible city planning and sound management of public spaces in dialogue with young people. Among other things, the active participation of Vienna's young people in projects such as the Children and Youth Million has shown that they are motivated to get involved. They pinpoint specific problems and bring many creative ideas on how to make Vienna's public spaces even more child- and youth-friendly. For the City of Vienna, this is an invaluable resource!

Vienna continues to strengthen and promote the participation of children and young people in public spaces through diverse programmes and initiatives, with a special focus on girls and young women.

2. Room for All!

Vienna continues to grow. This also means that more and more people have to share existing public spaces. For certain groups, however, these spaces are particularly important. This includes children and, in particular, adolescents. Smart planning that considers various needs, allows for diverse uses and simultaneously prevents conflicts is essential for them.

Children and young people want public spaces that are welcoming to all and usable for everyone. For this reason, accessibility is very important to them.

Furthermore, they oppose design approaches that make certain places unattractive or unusable for specific groups of people. Such measures marginalise people and, in the view of young Vienna residents, they have no place in an open and inclusive city.

What the City Aims to Do

In this spirit, the City of Vienna will continue to work towards ensuring that public spaces are planned and designed in a way that makes sure that everyone can feel safe and welcome. Urban public spaces should be of high quality, accessible, suitable for everyday use and flexible in their design. They must cater to a wide range of user groups without excluding others and enable people of different generations to feel comfortable.

Conflicts are nothing out of the ordinary and occur wherever people with different needs come together. Where they arise more frequently, they should be identified at an early stage and, if possible, addressed consistently – for example with the support of Vienna's Fair Play Teams.

One thing is clear: Wherever possible, the design of urban public spaces should ensure that children and young people can actively contribute their wishes and ideas to planning processes, preferably from the very beginning. In line with the principles of gender planning, particular attention must always be paid to the needs of girls and young women.



3. Digital Infrastructure

Children and young people also wish for improvements in the city's digital infrastructure: public internet access should be expanded further, Wi-Fi quality and security enhanced. In addition, children and young people suggest making the city's free Wi-Fi hotspots better known.

When public infrastructure is defective, children and young people want to be able to report it easily and directly online. The City of Vienna already provides the "Sag's Wien" app for this purpose. While children and young people appreciate this, they would like a more user-friendly and appealing design that is better adapted to their needs.

Young Vienna residents also want to be able to access information about construction sites and other changes to public spaces online. They therefore wish for improved communication about these via the City's social media channels.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna continues to work on expanding its digital services and making them accessible at all levels. In addition, it is important that their design and structure are appealing, so that they are both usable and attractive for a younger demographic.

4. More Space for Walking, Cycling and Living, Less Space for Cars

Today's children and young people grow up in a city that is still dominated by motorised individual transport. A large part of the city's public space is reserved for cars. Making Vienna the most child- and youth-friendly city means changing that. Children and young people want urban planning that puts their everyday mobility at the centre. They want less car traffic and more space for pedestrians and cyclists – which is also good for the climate!

In this spirit, young Vienna residents call for more traffic-calming and car-free areas, as well as higher parking fees and an end to parking on pavements. This is intended to create more space for green areas and nature.

To encourage walking in Vienna as a 'city of short distances', pavements should be wide, safe and shaded, also in the outer districts. Traffic lights should give everyone – including children – enough time to cross streets safely. For young people, this is particularly important on journeys between home and educational institutions. They value short trips to school and call for more zebra crossings and crossing guards in front of schools.

From the perspective of children and young people, cycle lanes should be expanded even further and made safer – not just along the main routes. Urban planning should consistently consider creating as many physically separated cycle lanes as possible, in order to enable safe cycling throughout the city in the future.

What the City Aims to Do

Fully in line with this vision of its young residents, the City of Vienna has committed to a climate-friendly mobility guarantee. To further improve in this area, public road space needs to be redistributed in favour of active mobility, public transport and attractive footpaths that include places to rest. Special attention will be given to the everyday journeys of children and young people, which should be made safer and more appealing. This applies in particular to journeys to and from educational, after-school care and leisure facilities.

The City will continue its bike path initiative, closing gaps in the cycling infrastructure. A fully connected network of cycle lanes also ensures safe use, particularly for children. Overall, the City aims to further increase the proportion of journeys made on foot, by bicycle or public transport.

Not least, it aims to reduce the need for mobility wherever possible in the Vienna of the future. Through short distances and vibrant, mixed-use neighbourhoods, it brings to life and promotes its vision of a 'city of short distances'.

5. Public Transport: Reliable Mobility All Across Vienna

Vienna has an excellent public transport network admired by cities worldwide. Young people greatly appreciate this as well. However, they also identify potential for improvement: delays and lack of space are points of criticism, and they additionally call for better public transport services at night.

To further improve the reliability of public transport, young Vienna residents suggest better scheduling, with shorter intervals, particularly in outer districts and for night buses. They call for more dedicated lanes for buses and trams to ensure that public transport can move quickly and arrive on time, even in heavy traffic. Different modes of transport – cars, bicycles and public transport – should be seamlessly combined and coordinated.

When waiting is unavoidable, children and young people would like bus and tram stops to be better equipped: Waiting areas should provide protection from rain, cold and heat. Furthermore, they suggest installing drinking fountains at strategic points within the public transport network.

Public transport fares should be equally affordable to school pupils, students and apprentices, also during school holidays.

Young Vienna residents also identify cross-state connections as an area needing improvement.

What the City Aims to Do

Public transport is and will remain the backbone of Vienna's mobility network. In view of ongoing population growth, the City continues to invest in safety and security, in maintaining its infrastructure and in expanding, densifying and accelerating public transport services in all districts, including the underground, trams, S-Bahn (rapid transit) and new bus connections. Connections to surrounding communities are also set to be improved as part of this process.



Ideas Submitted by the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25's Public Space and Mobility Committee:

- Expansion of publicly accessible spaces that are heated in winter and air-conditioned in summer.
- More affordable public transport fares for young people: Discounts for pupils should also apply to students and during school holidays.
- Accurate real-time departure information and shorter intervals for public transport.
- Expansion of public restrooms and free menstrual products.
- Improvement of the public Wi-Fi network.
- Abolition of parking on pavements.
- More space for pedestrians and cyclists.

Leisure and Culture

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

All children and young people in Vienna have sufficient time and opportunities to enjoy leisure, sports, play, fun, rest and recreation. They can freely participate in festivals, events and cultural activities that reflect the diversity of their city.

FIELDS OF ACTION

1. Culture: Experiencing, Living and Celebrating Diversity

Vienna's citizens live together in a large city, but their ways of life differ. Children and young people have varied interests, come from different families and feel connected to different social groups. They see the city's culture(s) as being just as diverse as its people. They understand the concept of culture in a very broad sense.

Children and young people value the city's cultural institutions. They enjoy its museums, cinemas and music offerings. At the same time, they are particularly interested in culture as a creative expression of diverse ways of life. They want to engage with this diversity through festivals, food and dance.

Young people in Vienna see themselves as part of a diverse society and want this diversity to be reflected in the city's cultural offerings. They call for inclusive, creative and interactive cultural programs that involve everyone. Vienna is diverse – and that's a good thing.

Young Vienna residents firmly reject all forms of racism, anti-Semitism and cultural devaluation. They envision a city where everyone is treated with respect and fairness – both on stage and in everyday life.

Not least, the lives of young people vary greatly depending on their financial means. This is why the affordability of cultural offerings and institutions is such an important issue for them. They want models that guarantee all young people access to music, art and culture.



What the City Aims to Do

Culture is understood as a dynamic, constantly evolving process of living together, expressing and creating meaning, shaped by all people. It encompasses all forms of expression, practices, values, ways of thinking and living that people use to shape, understand and share their world.

Vienna is a major cultural metropolis offering a wide range of affordable cultural experiences, which significantly contribute to the city's high quality of life. To ensure that young people can also benefit, the City of Vienna continues, in line with its Cultural Strategy 2030, to actively strengthen affordable art and culture offerings for children and young people. These should enable participation and create vibrant meeting places.

In this context, accessibility is considered beyond financial aspects. To ensure that art and culture are not reserved for a privileged few, cultural institutions need to bring their diverse programs to the places where children and young people already spend their free time: in the city's parks, on playgrounds, in play streets, on sports fields and in neighbourhoods.

Moreover, the City of Vienna strives for a peaceful and respectful coexistence of all generations, genders, cultures and ways of life. This entails that everyone feels equally acknowledged and valued, and is treated fairly.

This is why Vienna's Integration and Diversity Work promotes the equal participation and active involvement of all residents in every area of city life. This applies to young and old, to those whose families have lived here for generations, as well as to Vienna residents with an immigration background, regardless of their religious affiliation. Achieving this requires initiatives and projects that encourage conscious engagement with diversity, thereby fostering the potential for reflection and dialogue in the city.



2. Parks and Playgrounds

For children and young people, parks and playgrounds are important meeting places where they can play, chat or simply relax – surrounded by green space. Motor skills parks, water parks as well as indoor and adventure playgrounds already offer a wide range of possibilities and enjoy great popularity. Because children and young people love their city's many parks, it is all the more important to them that these green oases are further expanded, kept clean and well-maintained. They want the existing trees to be preserved and they call for the creation of more playgrounds and sports fields. More benches, tables, clean restrooms, drinking fountains, food options and sufficient lighting in the evening are on their wish list for parks.

When it comes to Vienna's playgrounds, children and young people want offerings to be even more diverse, with the needs and interests of all age groups taken into account and full accessibility ensured: Younger and older children should feel just as comfortable and have just as much fun as teenagers and persons with disabilities. Conflicts over usage should be minimised through smart planning. If they do occur, children and young people need support in finding constructive solutions. Peaceful co-existence is especially important to Vienna's young. Playgrounds and parks should be places where everyone feels welcome.

Playgrounds should also be clean, safe and well-lit. To ensure they can be used comfortably in summer, it is essential that they provide shade – ideally from trees. Children and young people also expect that broken equipment is repaired or replaced quickly.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna aims to ensure that every resident has access to a green or open space within 250 metres, or just a few minutes' walk. This will be accomplished, for instance, through 'green elements' that link parks and large green areas with smaller ecological zones and streets.

Participatory projects in recent years have shown that children and young people want to take an active role in shaping green and open spaces. They provide valuable ideas on how existing parks and playgrounds can be designed to better meet their needs. The City will therefore continue to involve children and young people in the processes of generating ideas, planning and implementing the expansion, diversification and improvement of Vienna's green spaces.

The wiener spiel!straße concept ('Playfully Through Vienna') creates space for play and fun outside green areas. Through temporary street closures, it provides additional safe space for free play and physical activity. Its goal is to reclaim the street as part of citizens' living environment, promote a vibrant street play culture and strengthen community life in neighbourhoods. Accompanied by youth workers or Fair Play staff and equipped with a variety of play materials, the concept encourages cross-generational experiences and enables young people to take ownership of public space.



3. Sports & Exercise: Living an Active Life – Everywhere, for Everyone

Exercise and sports are an important part of young people's free time. Children and young people value the city's wide range of sporting opportunities: from inline skating and climbing to rowing on the Old Danube, whether as members of clubs or simply with friends. They praise dedicated coaches and the existing sports complexes, but would also like to see public swimming pools and sports facilities to be expanded further, especially those offering football, basketball, volleyball and martial arts. They feel that fitness stations in public spaces should be more numerous and better adapted to the needs of young people.

Young people prefer to find out what is offered where online: They would like a practical online overview showing the availability of sports facilities and swimming lanes, with the option to book these offers online.

At the same time, Vienna's young residents would also like to provide the city with online feedback on where they see a need in terms of sports offerings – for instance through regular online surveys. Digitisation is therefore also an important issue in terms of accessibility in the leisure sector.

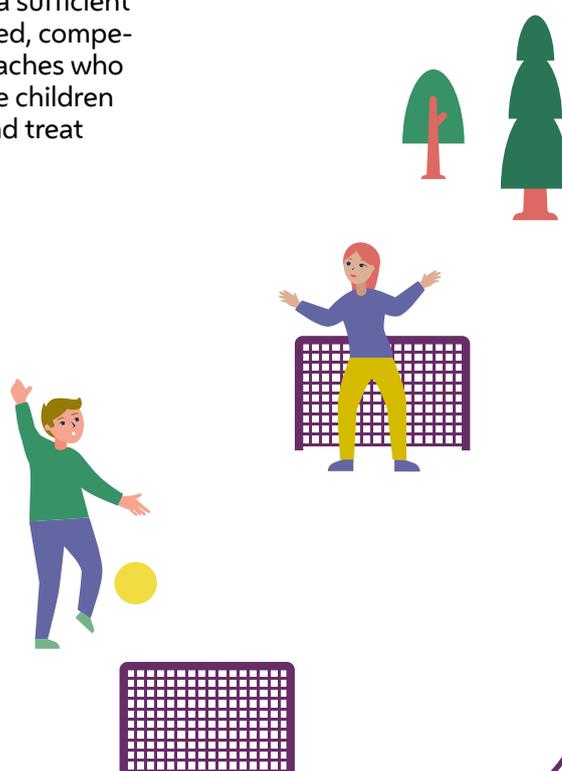
One thing is particularly important to children and young people: the opportunity to engage in sports must be available to all – regardless of financial circumstance. For this reason, the City should provide even more free or low-cost opportunities and expand financial support for a wide range of sports clubs. Only if a broad spectrum of sports and activities is supported will young people be able to try out different options and find out what they like. Children's and young people's motivations for engaging in physical exercise and sports vary greatly: While some enjoy competing in tournaments, others prefer activities that do not involve competition and performance pressure.

Young Vienna residents emphasise that the successful expansion of sports and opportunities for physical activity also depends to a large extent on the availability of a sufficient number of well-trained, competent and sensitive coaches who support and motivate children and young people and treat them with respect.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna is committed to the long-term development and maintenance of sports infrastructure across the city. Sports facilities should be affordable and easily accessible by public transport, on foot and by bicycle, and provide activities for all groups – including dedicated programmes for children and young people.

Moreover, the City of Vienna makes existing (open) spaces accessible for additional use. Through organised multiple-use arrangements, young people can, for instance, use sports fields or school gyms after school, on weekends and during holidays.



4. Open Children and Youth Work

Vienna's young people value youth centres and youth clubs as spaces without pressure to consume anything, where they can meet and interact with their peers, gain new experiences and make and meet friends. In addition to engaging regular programmes, it is particularly important to them that staff at these youth facilities listens to them and takes their concerns and interests seriously.

What the City Aims to Do

Vienna's Open Children and Youth Work already offers a wide range of services and activities. In addition to youth centres and youth clubs, it is present throughout Vienna through various forms of outreach and mobile work, including street work in public spaces. In this way, it is also able to reach young people who do not attend local facilities.

The City of Vienna is committed to maintaining the existing diversity of Open Children and Youth Work, both indoors and outdoors. Its mandate is to create low-threshold, voluntary and diverse spaces for encounter that support young people's orientation, social integration and personal development. In both existing neighbourhoods and urban development areas, the City seeks to further expand and develop Open Children and Youth Work – alongside schools and early education institutions – as an integral part of social infrastructure.

This also applies to the digital sphere. Vienna's guidelines for digital children and youth work were developed to support youth workers in their day-to-day work and to help improve and further develop children and youth work in the digital realm.

In the coming years, the City of Vienna will continue to work together with Open Children and Youth Work organisations to further raise awareness of its wide range of services among young people. The participation of children and young people will remain one of its core principles. Quality assurance and high-quality training for youth workers will be further developed through joint efforts of all stakeholders.

Ideas Submitted by the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25's Leisure and Culture Committee:

- Improved lighting and first-aid kits at playgrounds.
- Expansion of affordable indoor playgrounds and sports activities.
- More varied equipment on sports field.
- Creative and interactive possibilities to experience culture, i.e. an annual cultural festival.
- Improved public Wi-Fi.
- Abolish parking on pavements.
- More 'Serbian grill'.



5. Space for Street Art

Children and young people value Vienna as a beautiful city with great architecture. At the same time, it is important to them that public spaces provide enough room for young people to express their creativity. For this reason, they would like more areas where street artists can legally create street art.

What the City Aims to Do

With its Wienerwand initiative ('Vienna Wall'), the City of Vienna has already established a strong foundation: Designated areas throughout the city where graffiti artists can work (in accordance with the project's terms of use) are marked with the Vienna Wall symbol, a pigeon. These spaces allow young people to experiment with various graffiti techniques, network with other graffiti enthusiasts and actively shape their city with their own art. In the coming years, the City will continue to pursue and expand the initiative in collaboration with young people.

6. Exploring Digital Realms: Safely and Autonomously

Gaming, streaming and social media are an integral part of most young people's leisure time. They appreciate the creative possibilities the digital world offers, the ability to connect with others and the fun factor. At the same time, many young people find the constant presence of smartphones and social networks to be a source of stress. Issues such as mobile phone and gaming addiction, cyberbullying, performance pressure, constant availability and comparisons with seemingly perfect online lives are on many young people's minds. Many also consider the increasing monetisation of games and the lack of age verification on platforms problematic.

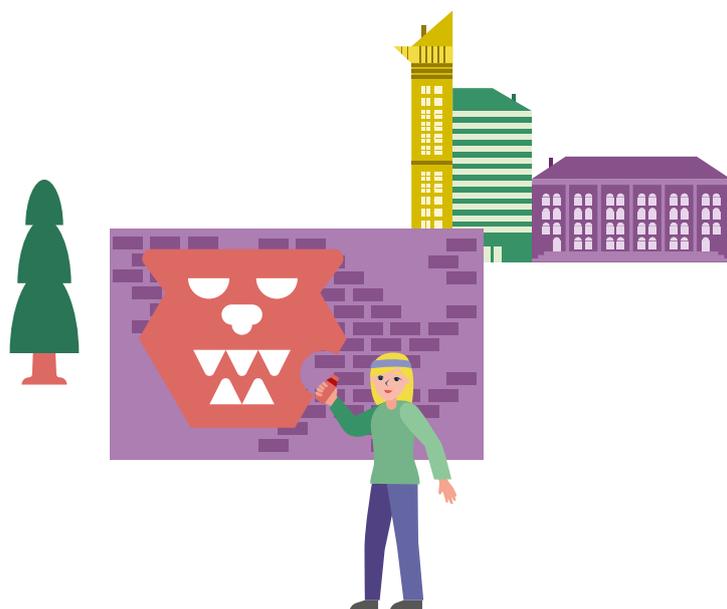
What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna takes these concerns seriously and promotes a conscious and thoughtful use of digital media. Together with experts and young people, it develops preventative measures and programmes aimed at comprehensive and contemporary media literacy. These initiatives are intended not only for children and young people, but also for those who work and live with them. The goal is to strengthen digital skills, provide protection and enable participation.

For children and young people this means that digital literacy should be systematically developed and promoted across all educational settings, open children and youth work, and child and youth welfare institutions – and should extend well beyond traditional computer science topics.

All young people should know how to navigate the digital world creatively and responsibly, and how to protect their personal data and themselves.

To make this possible, parents, educators and professionals also need solid knowledge. For this reason, the City will work to raise awareness of the delicate balance between protection and participation in the digital sphere among all people who work or live with children and young people. Questions such as "When should my child get a smartphone?", "Are phone bans effective?", or "How can we make digital gaming be more child-friendly?" must be discussed thoughtfully and answered in a nuanced way.



Education and School

4

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

All children in Vienna are able to freely develop their interests, ideas and talents. Vienna's educational institutions support and encourage them in a respectful manner. There, they find the space to grow together and gain the skills they need to confidently shape their own future.

FIELDS OF ACTION

1. Contemporary Education

Most children and young people spend a large part of their daily lives in educational institutions. This is why they want kindergartens and schools that not only support their development but also listen to them. Educational institutions should enable them to develop their own interests and talents, while equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need in an increasingly complex professional world.

From the perspective of young people, this means that curricula and educational concepts need to reflect the realities and demands of modern life. In a society that requires a high degree of personal responsibility, they need practical tools to manage their daily lives independently. The topics that matter most to them range from financial literacy and knowledge about taxes to household management, parenting, sexuality and relationships. Also health-related

skills are particularly important to Vienna's young residents: from healthy eating and addiction prevention to exercise and sports, they want schools to teach them how to better understand their own bodies and live a healthy life.

Children and young people also feel that individual prioritisation should be possible: They want participation and flexibility in all educational institutions, and more choices across all school types to explore their own interests. They want group and project-based work to be given greater emphasis. More broadly, they think that both content and teaching methods should be contemporary, diverse and tailored to their needs. Pupils also wish for greater fairness and transparency in grading. They would like existing systems to be complemented by alternative assessment methods to reduce the pressure and stress of achieving good grades, and to create space for individual learning paths.

What the City Aims to Do

The concerns and perspectives of children and young people are taken into account in the development of Vienna's educational institutions. In line with a humanistic concept of education, a key guiding principle of Vienna's education policy is that children and young people come to understand and engage with the world through participation in social and cultural life and by assuming responsibility.

The City of Vienna continues to work on establishing the conditions necessary for this core principle to be realised in all educational institutions. Children's and young people's needs should be at the centre of all educational institutions that work with them. They are seen as competent and active participants in learning processes. Adults observe, analyse, guide and facilitate these processes. Educational content is therefore not dictated unilaterally, but

developed collaboratively with children and young people. They learn through various methods: through curiosity, experimentation, imitation and play. In this way, they learn to understand themselves and the world. Ideally, families, early childhood education institutions and schools work together as partners in this process.

Furthermore, (compulsory) schools are required to meet new demands through contemporary curricula, skills-oriented lessons, sound educational concepts and well-trained, motivated educators. In cooperation with the University College of Teacher Education Vienna (PH Wien), the City of Vienna continues to work on making Vienna's compulsory schools more innovative, sustainable and autonomous. In this process, school development is approached holistically, taking into account the schools' social context, and tailored programmes are developed with experts based on practical experience. School administrators, teachers, pupils and parents/guardians are involved equally.

This demonstrates the strengths of Vienna's education system and the potential that children and young people in Vienna can develop. In addition, the City offers measures aimed at empowering girls, providing them with long-term, sustainable access to technology and other STEM areas.

2. Boosting Digital Education and Media Literacy

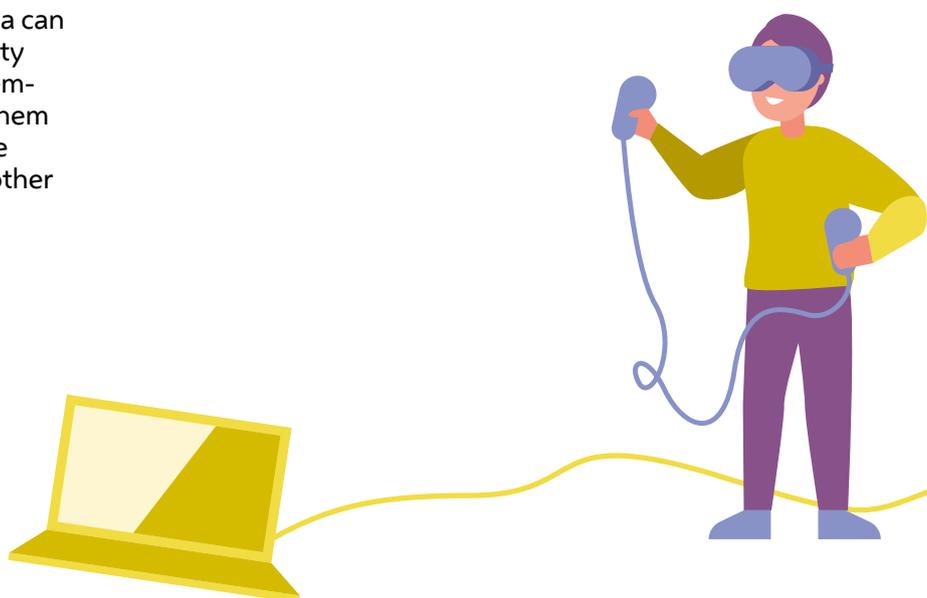
Children and young people want contemporary digital education that addresses both technological developments and societal challenges of the digital age in a comprehensive way. They call for greater attention to current topics, such as artificial intelligence, in schools. Digital devices should be used deliberately, and teachers should receive better training on how to use them effectively.

Young people today grow up with digital technologies, making them so-called 'digital natives'. However, this does not automatically equip them with the digital competencies they need. Comprehensive digital literacy education is therefore essential, extending beyond technical skills to cover media literacy, digital security, responsible handling of data, and the legal frameworks governing online activity.

To make this possible, targeted further training opportunities are needed for educators, enabling them to support children and young people with expert knowledge.

A key focus is the early and clear communication of rights, responsibilities, and legal frameworks in digital spaces – especially concerning issues such as cyberbullying, extremism and privacy. Young Vienna residents should have a clear understanding of what they are allowed and not allowed to do online, ensuring they can participate fully in digital life while being adequately protected.

So far, children and young people often feel left to their own devices when it comes to these topics. Adults – parents, teachers, social workers – therefore need to be better informed and more confident, so they can effectively protect and support young people. Finally, the technical equipment of educational institutions is also an important issue: All young people should have access to digital devices to ensure equal opportunities for participation in the digital world.



What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna seeks to systematically strengthen digital education across all educational institutions. Its aim is to enable young people to use digital technologies competently, safely and thoughtfully. Within its sphere of responsibility, digital content and media literacy will be increasingly integrated into curricula and early childhood education institutions, while targeted training opportunities for educators will be expanded. In addition, the City will, within its means, advocate for the broader support of such initiatives.

The City of Vienna will work to ensure that the technical equipment in educational institutions is upgraded according to need and that all children and young people have access to digital devices – regardless of their social or financial situation. This aims to guarantee equality of opportunity, participation and safety in the digital realm.

3. Social Skills in School

Children and young people see school as more than just a place for acquiring knowledge. They want a school environment where social skills are actively nurtured and the sense of community within classrooms is strengthened. Respectful interaction and a positive atmosphere are essential foundations for effective learning, with teachers playing a key role.

Children and young people emphasise that good educators make a huge difference. Teachers should not only be skilled and motivated, but also approach young people with genuine interest. A respectful attitude and interaction on equal footing are crucial: Teachers should consider individual circumstances, handle conflicts fairly, show emotions in a reflective way, and shape everyday school life with humour and empathy. Promoting social skills, both among pupils and teachers, is therefore an important concern for Vienna's young people.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna continues to promote social learning in schools and beyond through various initiatives, such as providing professional development opportunities for teachers and youth workers, as well as organising workshops and events – such as those offered within the Wiener Bildungschancen programme, which covers the costs of supplementary activities such as workshops in schools. Innovative projects, such as Respekt: Gemeinsam stärker ('Respect: Stronger Together'), in which everyday challenges in school are addressed in a targeted and sustainable way with the school community, will be continued and expanded. The aim is to create schools free from fear and violence, where everyone feels comfortable and welcome.

4. Understanding Politics and Practising School Democracy

Political education is a major concern for young people and, in their view, should be further enhanced in schools. They want to understand political processes from the ground up, critically examine them, express their opinions and participate confidently in discussions. They would also like party manifestos to be addressed and discussed in class. Schools should actively encourage young people to become socially and politically engaged.

Moreover, they want democracy to be practised within school. For example, pupils would like more transparency around school budgets. Beyond this, young people want a stronger voice in the field of education. In their view, the Provincial Student Representation (LSV) should be more visible and better supported.

What the City Aims to Do

Austria's Federal Constitution states that education should enable young people to participate in political processes. For this reason, political education is a key concern of Vienna's educational policy. All educational institutions in Vienna, especially schools, play a central role in strengthening political literacy and developing democratic thinking and action.



In this spirit, the City of Vienna will continue to support initiatives that enable young people to acquire political knowledge and gain hands-on experience with democratic processes beyond elections. Projects like SMG Schüler*innenMitGestaltung ('Student Participation') will continue to be supported, and additional formats aimed at promoting democratic education will be developed, such as the pilot project Demokratieschule Wien ('Vienna Democracy School'). The project aims to cultivate a democratic culture within schools that involves pupils, teachers, parents and school staff based on democratic values such as participation, acceptance of diversity, respect and sustainability. The Vienna Democracy School certificate is to be established within Vienna's educational landscape and is intended to make a sustainable contribution to strengthening a democratic society.

5. Promoting Mental Health

Performance pressure, stress and unrealistic expectations are everyday reality for many young people in school. And, of course, there are other issues that affect children and young people, which they cannot simply leave behind at the school gate.

In situations like that, young people want dependable contact persons within their educational institutions. From their perspective, schools have a special responsibility to provide reliable psychosocial support. They want low-threshold, confidential access to professional help, ideally without mandatory parental involvement. Crucially, they want the opportunity to speak openly and without fear about all topics – including those that are otherwise considered taboo. Well-established school-based psychological counselling, enhanced school social work, and school nurses are seen as central measures.

Vienna's young people call for the further expansion of peer-to-peer formats in which support is provided by others of the same age. For them, it is clear that schools should not only be places for learning, but also for talking about worries, emotions and personal challenges.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna continues to work on optimising its measures to promote the mental health of children and young people. In order to support kindergarten children, pupils, all persons working in early education institutions and teachers with support and enable early crisis intervention, multi-professional, psychosocial support services will be further expanded. The aim is to identify psychosocial challenges at an early stage and to provide those affected, as well as their surroundings, with swift and uncomplicated support.

Furthermore, existing initiatives such as the Mental Health Days, a training and workshop programme in and for Viennese schools, will continue to be supported and expanded in line with demand.

Ideas Submitted by the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25's Education and School Committee:

- Ban exams in the first lesson of the day.
- Pupils design their own timetables:
"We want to have a say in what we learn!"
- Schools should encourage critical thinking and build on students' individual strengths.
- Introduce additional ways for overall grades to be determined: Instead of giving massive weight to a few exams, there should be more varied and smaller assessment options, such as 'mini tests'.
- Make ethics lessons compulsory for all pupils, starting in lower grades.



Labour and Finance

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

All children and young people have the opportunity to pursue quality education and vocational training. They get support with career and labour market orientation and can learn and work under fair conditions. They live in a city where life is affordable for young people. Vienna's young residents embark on their financial and professional future in a self-determined and competent way.

FIELDS OF ACTION

1. Affordable Living for All

Rent, electricity, food: Many young people experience firsthand how expensive life has become. That's why they call for affordable housing, affordable electricity and measures to reduce the overall cost of living.

Children and young people often learn early on how expensive housing can be and how much it can impact a household's budget. This issue becomes particularly pressing when they start looking for their first flat and have to pay the rent themselves. They see it as unfair that some people in Vienna cannot afford adequate housing, despite it being a basic human right. They call for housing to remain affordable for everyone and urge the City to implement measures to guarantee this going forward.

Young people in Vienna see that some families need more financial support and urge policy-makers to provide it. They know that a lot is already being done about this in the city and view it positively. It is very important to them that all residents of Vienna can live comfortably and that those in need receive appropriate support.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna wants to ensure that housing remains affordable in the long term, especially for families, children and young people. To this end, it creates new, affordable flats, renovates existing housing, and adapts it to meet climate requirements. Targeted subsidies and legal frameworks support community housing projects and the modernisation of older buildings. The provision of safe and affordable electricity and the district heating network are also being further expanded.

Measures such as the new rental and housing assistance, as well as affordable holiday care for children provide families with tangible support in their everyday lives. This helps ensure that Vienna's children and young people can grow up without financial pressure. With its Junges Wohnen ('Young Housing') project, Wiener Wohnen explicitly seeks to expand affordable housing for young adults.

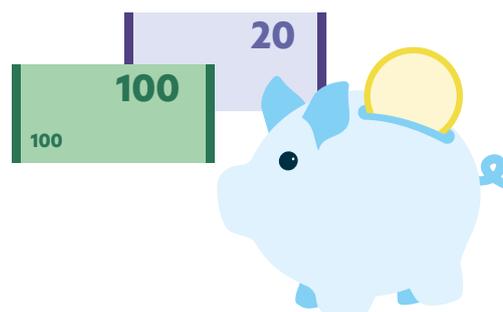
2. Financial and Economic Education

Young people want to know more about the economy and finance. While they appreciate the basic skills provided in school, they seek more in-depth information and guidance on topics such as taxes, entrepreneurship, labour rights and duties, money management, and national and business economics. On the one hand, children and young people want to learn more about these topics in school. On the other hand, other educational institutions as well as open children and youth work can contribute through info sessions, workshops, financial advice and other low-threshold online and offline formats.

As consumers, young people in Vienna want more information on data privacy policies, terms and conditions and contracts. In their view, these should be presented in ways that children and young people can understand, such as lists, short videos or games. This aims to prevent young people from running into financial difficulties. They see particular challenges online and in gaming, due to paid in-game elements such as loot boxes, in-app purchases and subscription models.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna aims to strengthen financial awareness among children and young people. By fostering understanding of income, taxes, interest, saving, contracts, as well as rights and duties, it seeks to enable young people to make informed financial decisions and avoid debt. To achieve this, it is important to offer and further develop a broad range of formats tailored to different target groups – for example, educational booklets such as BOOKY Spezial – Geldgeschichten ('Money Stories') for primary schools, FSW-Finanzführerschein ('Financial Literacy Certification'), the Finanz Fit Wien awards as well as workshops and informational offerings by WIENXTRA-Jugendinfo (Vienna Youth Information Centre). The City of Vienna will continue to develop these measures and adapt them to current challenges, ensuring that all young residents of Vienna are prepared for their financial future.



3. Fair Working Conditions

Children and young people are aware that work is valued and remunerated unevenly in society. They are particularly critical of the fact that professions with high social importance and significant mental or physical demands – such as healthcare, social work or retail work – are often poorly paid. These jobs are predominantly held by women. Children and young people therefore call for political action that decreases social inequality and ensures greater fairness.

Young people also call for equal opportunities in the labour market, regardless of nationality, gender or social background, seeing this as a crucial foundation for a self-determined life. They also note growing inequalities in access to work and education, and support political measures that offer young people reliable pathways to a fulfilling professional future. Participation, autonomy and creative freedom in the working world of the future are particularly important to them.

What the City Aims to Do

Digitisation and social change are transforming the requirements for education and work. This is why we need modern, practical and skills-oriented educational programmes in schools and vocational training that prepare young people for future fields of work such as social work and healthcare, climate protection and sustainability, as well as technology and digitisation. Supra-company vocational training models should also be expanded to address the shortage of apprenticeship and trainee positions for young people. Lifelong learning is already a reality in many sectors and is should be facilitated through a variety of easily accessible further education opportunities.

With approximately 69,000 employees, the City of Vienna is the largest employer in the metropolis, and with around 600 apprentices currently training in 20 different professions, it also has one of the largest apprenticeship programmes in the country.

In this role, the City of Vienna ensures fair working conditions for young people and apprentices. It advocates for these standards within its sphere of influence. The City of Vienna also promotes the training of young people and apprentices in various ways: as part of the Wiener Ausbildungsgarantie ('Vienna Training Guarantee'), it contributes to the funding of supra-company apprenticeships via the Vienna branch of Austria's Public Employment Service (AMS). In cooperation with Jugendstiftung Wien ('Vienna Youth Foundation') and projects such as 'Eco Booster', it supports training in future-oriented professions. It also cooperates with the Vienna Chamber of Commerce to secure apprenticeship placements, a partnership it intends to continue.



4. Transitioning from School to Work – Schools as Guides to Professional Life

Schools should help young people find their way into the future – whether they plan to attend university or enter an apprenticeship and pursue a profession. This requires sufficient space and time for reliable information, broad insights, inspiring talks and personal reflection. Young people therefore call for more comprehensive career information and guidance in schools. Children and young people would like to gain more authentic insights into the world of work, which is why they suggest that professionals from various fields should visit schools to present their work and answer questions about it.

To ease their transition into working life, young people would also like to see improved access to paid holiday jobs and internships. In addition to school-based programmes, they want career and work counselling to be further expanded to better support them in choosing their path.



What the City Aims to Do

Transitioning from school to professional life is an important and challenging step for young people. The City of Vienna supports its young residents in starting their careers through a wide range of measures and projects. These include on-the-job coaching, with special offers for people with disabilities; programmes that allow those who did not complete compulsory school diplomas to do so; initiatives aimed at sustainably integrating young people and young adults with a refugee background into the labour market; and the promotion of supra-company apprenticeships. Other initiatives, such as the City's annual 'Bring Your Daughter to Work Day', the Rollen.Bilder.Buch ('Picture Book on Gender Roles and Professions'), the DiDay NextGen Girls (Digital Education) initiative or the 'Girls Celebrate Technology' project aim to present STEM professions in a gender-sensitive way that is accessible for all.



Ideas Submitted by the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25's Labour and Finances Committee:

- Rent price cap to keep housing affordable.
- Guaranteed jobs for young people.
- Companies should cover young people's lunch costs.
- More career guidance and orientation offers for young people.

Health and Social Affairs

6

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

All children and young people in Vienna can live a healthy and comfortable life. They have access to health services that meet their needs and offer optimal protection from detrimental influences of any kind. Like their adult caregivers, they have comprehensive knowledge of health-related and psychosocial topics. Support is readily available, timely and straightforward whenever it is needed.

FIELDS OF ACTION

1. Good Healthcare for All – Now and in the Future!

Children and young people want publicly funded health services, which work well for all people, independent of their income. They emphasise that health is a human right.

Children and young people view many aspects of Vienna's healthcare system positively. They appreciate that simple, free or affordable access to health services, vaccinations and medication is guaranteed for many residents. At the same time, they see room for improvement in certain areas, particularly in paediatric care, women's health, mental health and dental care.

Vienna's Young citizens also recognise that a solid healthcare system is essential for them to

face the future with confidence. They believe that people in need of support or care should not have to fear stress or high costs. For children and young people, this also means that healthcare professionals should be well-trained, fairly paid and not overburdened. To make healthcare professions more attractive in the future, they consider good working and training conditions particularly important.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna is firmly committed to publicly funded healthcare based on solidarity, providing reliable services to all its residents regardless of their social or financial situation. It will continue to actively safeguard and develop this foundation, ensuring that young people grow up in a city where

healthcare does not depend on income. This is particularly important for young people who care for relatives at home, either permanently or part-time. Their number is on the rise.

Existing healthcare services will be expanded, made accessible and even better tailored to the diverse needs of young people. The City of Vienna already plays a pioneering role in Austria in establishing primary care facilities for children and will continue to invest in expanding regional health care centres.

To ensure proper care, the City of Vienna will continue to proactively enhance the attractiveness of care professions and their associated training offers.

2. Taking Women's and Girls' Health Seriously

Equal opportunities in healthcare mean that everyone has the same chance to develop, maintain and restore their health. However, girls and young women notice very early on that this is not always the case. They report that issues such as menstrual pain are often downplayed, dismissed and not taken seriously by professionals, including doctors.

Young people also notice gaps in medical knowledge, which is why they emphasise the importance of gender-sensitive medicine in both research and practice. They want gender-specific needs and barriers to be considered when improving young people's access to mental health services. For example, they observe that, once they reach puberty, girls tend to be less satisfied with their bodies and lives. This makes information on health-related topics particularly important to them.

What the City Aims to Do

Health-related equality of opportunity is a key objective of the City of Vienna's healthcare policy. To achieve this, it promotes gender-sensitive healthcare services for children and young people, aiming to design them so that they meet the diverse needs of all young residents of Vienna.

Fair and just health promotion also includes raising awareness of topics such as menstruation, sexuality and reproductive health, and breaking down taboos surrounding them. Doctors and other healthca-

re professionals should act as multipliers for gender-specific issues to ensure that the concerns of young people are genuinely taken seriously. In this spirit, experts from the Vienna Women's Health Programme have been specifically promoting women's health at all levels since 1998.

When it comes to menstruation, projects such as 'Rote Box' and 'Kostenloses Blutten' (providing free menstrual products in schools and beyond) take initial steps towards breaking taboos and combating period poverty. The 'Kostenloses Blutten' project is based on an idea submitted by young Vienna residents as part of the City's Children and Youth Million project. Following a pilot phase in nine schools, a further 22 educational institutions were provided with free hygiene products in 2025.

As part of the FEM Med pilot project, efforts are also underway to establish Favoriten as Vienna's model district for gender medicine. The project aims to put gender medicine at the centre.

3. Health Literacy and Prevention

Children and young people understand that good health is the foundation for a good life and that it begins with everyday routines.

Mental health, nutrition and physical activity are particularly important to them. In their view, adults, and not just children themselves, must take responsibility for the health of young people. They regard schools as key places for raising awareness

and passing on knowledge. When it comes to nutrition, for example, they positively highlight the fruit baskets provided at school and Vienna's excellent tap water. At the same time, Vienna's young citizens would like even more regular guidance on healthy eating from experts, both for themselves and their parents, guardians and educators. These adults help young people assess what is healthy for them, what benefits them, and what should be avoided.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna is committed to ensuring equal healthcare opportunities for all children and young people from the very start. It aims to prevent health-related impairments as early as possible, since the foundations for future health are laid in early childhood. Habits formed early in life have a lasting impact on lifelong health. This is why investing in health promotion at a young age is the most effective way to secure a healthy population.

The physical and mental well-being of children and young people must therefore be a top priority. The aim is to support parents and children as early as possible, counter health-related inequalities and maintain a focus on particularly vulnerable population groups. Promoting healthy nutrition, physical activity and mental health among children and young people are concrete priorities the City will continue to work on intensively in the coming years.

The City will strengthen the health literacy of children and young people and encourage them to engage with and reflect on their own health. It aims to empower young people to make informed decisions, which requires the ability to find, understand, evaluate and apply accurate and reliable health information independently. To achieve this, young people need an environment that supports the development and expansion of their health skills. For this reason, the City of Vienna continues to cooperate with a variety of institutions that implement projects and measures in this field, providing educators, parents, guardians as well as children and young people with accessible, target-group oriented skills and knowledge.

4. Mental Health

The topic of mental health has gained tremendous importance for young people in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, has highlighted the heavy pressures that young people face during times of multiple crises. At the same time, children and young people are openly raising issues such as depression, eating disorders and neurodiversity, calling for change in the way society addresses them.

In this spirit, children and young people demand the removal of taboos. They want to gain more knowledge about mental health and receive practical tools for coping with crises, both for themselves and for those they live and work with.

In this context, they assign a central role to their schools. Performance pressures, stress, unrealistic expectations and rigid structures are part of everyday life for many young people. Workshops, information offers and Q&A sessions on mental health should therefore become a regular part of school life, according to Vienna's young residents. They want their schools to be a place that does not cause them stress, but rather one where they can openly speak about their concerns and find support.

Young Vienna residents also believe that efforts must continue to build well-functioning, close-knit support networks for everyone seeking help outside of schools. They call for more low-threshold counselling services that children and young people can access quickly and easily. Some also want these services to be available online.

Last but not least, young Vienna residents stress the crucial importance of sufficient medical and therapeutic care without long waiting times, for example through ample, affordable and accessible psychotherapy. After all, mental health conditions often coincide with immediate risks and, in some cases, serious negative consequences for those affected and their families.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna continues to ensure that children and young people grow up in an environment that sustainably supports their biopsychosocial health. Mental health is regarded as a central foundation for well-being and the positive development of young people, and therefore receives particular attention.

In line with this tenor, the City of Vienna continues to advance its preventative measures in mental health and actively works to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness. In close cooperation with educational institutions, open children and youth work, experts and families, it seeks to strengthen key areas such as resilience, positive body image, self-esteem and violence prevention. The aim is to provide young people with well-founded, age-appropriate information and to create spaces where they feel valued and protected, and where their concerns are heard.

Child and adolescent psychiatry is another area on which the City of Vienna will focus in the coming years to further strengthen local care for young people. Existing services such as Vienna's first level social-psychiatric support for young people will be made even more visible to the target group. Providing affordable, timely, and high-quality care for young people with mental health challenges extends beyond acute psychiatric treatment. Outpatient care services, guidance

and support through outpatient clinics and day clinics, psychotherapy and rehabilitation are extremely important for young people. Vienna aims to develop an integrated psychosocial support system in collaboration with those affected and experts, comprising outpatient services, home visits, online options and inpatient offers with a focus on therapy and rehabilitation.

All young people should know how and where to access quick and uncomplicated support. The City continuously works to provide a support system that offers protection, empowerment and reliable assistance when needed.

5. Addiction Prevention: Knowledge Beats Ignorance

Addiction is an issue that concerns many children and young people. On the one hand, they refer to conventional addictive substances such as alcohol and nicotine. At the same time, however, young people also raise concerns about sugar, energy drinks, gambling, smartphones and digital media. In doing so, children and young people are not only thinking about themselves but also about the adult in their lives. For example, children would like to see vapes banned from playgrounds and demand: We want adults to play with us instead of looking at their phones.

Many young people perceive the constant presence of smartphones and social media as a massive burden with a considerable addictive potential. At the same time, they also have concrete and creative ideas on how to counteract this: For example, they advocate for a 'mobile-phone-free day' as a public holiday dedicated to reflecting collectively on our use of mobile phones.

Finally, young people from Vienna also want everyone to have access to age- and target-group-appropriate information on addiction and prevention. They consider diverse programmes and formats, through which young people can learn from experts both inside and outside of school, particularly important.

What the City Aims to Do

Enabling young people to grow up in good health means, among other things, effectively protecting them from the risks and dangers of addiction. Prevention, however, does not start with imparting knowledge about the dangers and consequences of alcohol, nicotine and other drugs or non-substance addictions; it begins much earlier – with the promotion of self-worth, social skills, resilience and biopsychosocial health.

After all, self-assured, resilient young people who are empowered to take good care of their own physical and mental resources are better able to assess risks and make healthy life choices.

The City of Vienna therefore invests in holistic, age-appropriate prevention programmes – offered in kindergartens, schools, youth centres, the digital space and wherever young people shape their everyday lives. The aim is to empower them before risky behaviour develops and to provide them with the tools to face challenges actively and healthily. Existing addiction prevention initiatives will be further supported, expanded and continuously improved. Emerging issues that gain importance due to societal and technological developments will also be taken into account.

An effective approach to addiction prevention must always be designed to be intergenerational: After all, children and young people need role models who handle these issues sensitively and responsibly, and who serve as reliable contact persons who listen to their questions and concerns.

Not least, this requires a social framework that prioritises solidarity and cohesion over frustration and anxiety. In this context, protection from poverty and violence is just as important as effective support systems and therapy services for both young and old.



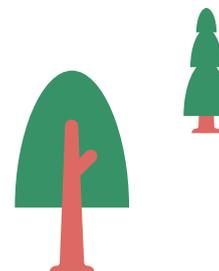
6. Fighting Poverty

Wealth is unevenly distributed in society – and young people see this as unfair. They find it difficult to understand why a few have so much while many have to make do with very little. Young people in Vienna would like to see more direct support for people with low-income. Among other things, they mention additional funds for families affected by poverty, as well as targeted aid for pupils – for example for learning materials, excursions or leisure activities. They also consider financial relief for families who, for instance, cannot afford to go on holidays to be important.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna recognises child poverty as a profound societal challenge. Poverty is understood not only as a lack of money, but also as a limitation on opportunities and participation. This is why the City of Vienna implements targeted measures to combat child poverty, based on prevention, integration, participation and self-determination.

The aim is a dignified life for all children – with free access to education, healthcare, culture and a stable social environment. Particular attention is given to children who face multiple disadvantages, for example due to disability, experiences of displacement or difficult family circumstances. The City will continue to strengthen measures that specifically combat poverty, help break the taboo around poverty and open up new perspectives for young people.



Ideas Submitted by the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25's Health and Social Affairs Committee:

- Make hospitals and doctors' practices more child-friendly, with play corners, books, a welcoming atmosphere and short waiting times.
- Provide healthy snacks and beverages in all school vending machines.
- Ban sugary drinks in schools.
- Ensure adequate physical and mental healthcare services in schools.

7. Combating Inherited Homelessness (FSW)

Inherited homelessness refers to situations in which children 'inherit' or 'continue' the homelessness of their parents or grandparents, often as a result of poverty, social inequality and a lack of access to stable housing.

Already, children and their parents make use of Vienna's Assistance for the Homeless, for example through Stationär betreutes Wohnen ('residential supported housing') and mother-child facilities provided by the Vienna Social Fund (FSW). However, the focus of care in these facilities is not on the children. What is needed here is socio-educational cross-departmental support that empowers children and provides them with options to ensure that their homelessness does not become permanent.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna is implementing measures to prevent inherited homelessness and is striving to introduce socio-educational staff in the facilities operated by Vienna's Assistance for the Homeless.

8. Supporting Care Leavers (FSW and MA 11)

In Austria, young people leave their parents' household at an average age of 25.3. However, young people who grow up in facilities operated by Vienna's Children and Youth Welfare Service (MA 11) or in foster families do not have this option. These so-called care leavers must leave their protected environment at 18, or at the latest 21, and are given the opportunity to continue accessing counselling services until they turn 24. Care leavers who require additional support should therefore receive particular attention. A strategy is needed that specifically supports potential care leavers with higher needs, providing continuous guidance beyond their 18th or 21st birthday without ending the relationship upon reaching adulthood. Sufficient transition services tailored to their needs, as well as the opportunity to move into disability assistance are particularly important for care leavers with chronic illness or disabilities.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna ensures that care leavers receive the best possible support with transition into adulthood. Early preventive measures are crucial in preventing homelessness. A strategy that begins before young people reach adulthood is intended to ensure that homelessness services do not become the default next step for young people facing multiple challenges.

9. Young People Who Have Experienced Displacement (FSW)

The demand for low-threshold social and general paediatric care as well as psychological and psychotherapeutic support for children and young people with refugee experience remains high in Vienna. In response, the City is already taking target action in this area in cooperation with various healthcare institutions and associations.

Unaccompanied minor refugees are children and young people in need of particular protection. They are currently accommodated and cared for both in facilities of Vienna's Child and Youth Welfare Service and in basic services facilities funded by the Vienna Social Fund (FSW). In this context, there is a particular need to align the care standards in the latter with those of the Vienna Child and Youth Welfare Service and to create additional capacities, especially for unaccompanied minor refugees with increased support needs.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna ensures that children and young people with refugee experience receive comprehensive support in all health-related and social matters as well as with their individual needs. Particular emphasis is placed on acquiring German language skills in order to foster their integration and personal development in the best possible way.



Community and Safety

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

All children and young people in Vienna grow up in a city characterised by diversity and solidarity. They actively contribute to a peaceful coexistence and experience mutual respect and cohesion as a normal part of their everyday lives. Children and young people feel safe and secure in Vienna. They are reliably protected from violence, discrimination and bullying, treated with respect and supported by adults, while the city provides safe spaces in which they can thrive.

FIELDS OF ACTION

1. Togetherness Characterised by Respect

Vienna is a large city characterised by a rich diversity of ways of living. Cultural and religious variety, different national origins and multilingualism are part of everyday life for the city's children and young people. They also state that diverse gender identities and sexual orientations must be respected as an integral part of Vienna's vibrant diversity.

However, young residents of Vienna are aware that this is not always the case. They see how challenging harmonious coexistence can be, citing, for example, conflicts between different user groups in public spaces. Young people in Vienna are particularly disturbed by sexism, misogyny, ableism and racism they encounter every day, whether in the media or in statements made by politicians. Children and young people want to live in a city charac-

terised by kindness, respect and mutual appreciation. Public spaces should be designed to support these values rather than create or amplify conflicts.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna is firmly committed to the diversity of its population, openness and respect. Diversity is seen as an opportunity and a valuable potential for the city's development. Public spaces are therefore designed to be accessible, safe, welcoming and inclusive for everyone. Through educational, awareness-raising and participation initiatives, Vienna fosters respectful interaction and counters prejudices. Programmes promoting gender equality and preventing or combating racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination are further expanded. Violence prevention also starts with the city's young inhabitants, with awareness-raising being as important as support services for

those affected by violence. At the same time, the City creates more opportunities for encounters and dialogue between different groups to maintain good relations. Vienna thus remains a diverse city where everyone can find their place and develop their potential.

2. Living Together in the City: Urban Skills

When children and young people think about the city they want to live in, they consider more than just their own needs. From their perspective, a good city is one that actively fosters solidarity: People facing difficulties should receive the support they need.

Young people and children, in particular, often feel intimidated by people whose appearance or behaviour seems unusual or unpredictable to them. This often includes people with mental illnesses, or those experiencing homelessness or addiction. This calls for more information and awareness-raising efforts. At the same time, children and young people have a strong sense of justice and want everyone in the city to have a good quality of life.

What the City Aims to Do

All citizens of Vienna should be able to live in a society built on solidarity and understand what is required for good community. This includes raising awareness among children, young people and adults of the social effects of physical and mental illness and marginalisation. At all levels, the City implements targeted measures to combat the stigmas faced by marginalised individuals.

Urban skills, meaning the competences and attitudes needed to live well together in a socially diverse, densely populated city like Vienna, play a central role in this. It includes consideration, solidarity, conflict-resolution skills and respectful treatment of different lifestyles and circumstances. These skills are crucial to ensuring peaceful co-existence among the city's many different user groups in public spaces.

Children's anxieties are real and deserve attention. They must not form the basis for exclusive or exclusionary urban planning, nor contribute to further stigmatisation. Forward-looking, socially conscious planning creates protected, child-friendly spaces while providing clearly marked places of support for marginalised groups, as well as opportunities for collective learning and practicing compassion.

Proper handling of these societal challenges does not mean spatially isolating people experiencing homelessness and addiction. Rather, it involves supporting marginalised groups with special needs and providing them with safe spaces to retreat, through low-threshold public services such as street work, addiction counselling and day centres.



3. Further Strengthen Child Protection (KIJA and MA 11)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child defines children's safety and security as protection and care, assigning this task to society as a whole. It emphasises their right to a violence-free upbringing and prohibits physical, psychological and sexual violence, as well as the economic and sexual exploitation of children and young people. The Convention specifically highlights the protection and care needs of children with disabilities and displaced children.

Feeling safe and secure depends significantly on reliable, loving relationships and a sense of belonging. The City must provide appropriate opportunities to ensure this. Among other responsibilities, protection from violence and discrimination is central. Physical, mental and sexual violence as well as assault and humiliation can occur in institutions (kindergartens, schools and after-school centres, sports clubs, vocational training institutions and apprenticeships, etc.) as well as in families, committed by acquaintances or relatives. Protection must therefore cover public and institutional spaces as well as that of the family, home and social environment.

What the City Aims to Do

In recent years, the City of Vienna's strong commitment to child protection has been reflected in numerous legal amendments. Creating safe spaces for children and protecting them from all types of violence is a top priority for all institutions working with young people. Mandatory child protection concepts for all early childhood education institutions and schools have already been implemented. In addition, the City established the 'Competence Centre for Child Protection in Early Childhood Education', serving as a contact point for all questions related to potential risks to the welfare of children in early education institutions.

A growing population also brings a rise in reports of child endangerment. This indicates that more children may be at risk and that social services must respond accordingly. Preventive work with children, youth and families in Vienna, including in cooperation with the police, was expanded in 2025 to continuously enhance both the actual and perceived safety of young people. As demand grows, the City aims to adjust its resources, such as staff and funding, to ensure adequate support and protection for all children.

Additionally, the City intends to improve the visibility and awareness of services for children and young people. Easily accessible offers, available in multiple languages, are an important prerequisite for ensuring that all children and young people receive effective support.

Since child protection is closely linked to children's rights, fundamental children's rights work aimed at raising awareness among both children and the City of Vienna will be promoted. In an increasingly diverse society and a highly specialised professional environment, child protection is becoming more complex. The multitude of often small-scale structures and diverse challenges requires particular attention to the connections between them, in order to avoid gaps in protection. That is why the City will focus on improving (institutional) collaboration and further developing services. Digital media will be used increasingly for campaigns and awareness-raising efforts in this area. After all, protection from violence and discrimination is an issue that should be on everyone's mind and must not be downplayed.



4. Safe and Secure in the City

Safety and security are essential prerequisites for children and young people to make full use of the city's public spaces. This topic is highly important to Vienna's young residents, whose understanding of safety is broad: It includes not only the work of emergency services but also that of social workers. Children and young people highlight the importance of safety in public areas, on playgrounds and in parks, as well as in traffic.

Although the majority of young Vienna residents feel 'safe' or 'rather safe', a significant number also see considerable room for improvement – especially at night. Girls and young women, in particular, report feeling increasingly unsafe in the city.

Vienna's young population would like to see trusted adults and authority figures who can provide quick, competent and reliable support in public spaces. They also stress the importance of technical safety infrastructure, such as panic buttons on public transport and emergency call stations in public spaces. While they rate the city's existing street lighting as good, they continue to call for further improvements.

Children and young people also want to learn how to protect themselves. At the same time, they recognise that the best approach is to tackle violence at its root. They therefore call for self-defence lessons and violence prevention workshops to be included in the curriculum from primary school onwards, and for the City to support free training courses for all age groups.

What the City Aims to Do

Guaranteeing the real and perceived safety of young people is a key priority for the City of Vienna. In this context, being 'safe and secure' not only means the absence of direct threats, but also that young people can confidently explore the city in a positive atmosphere of solidarity.

Wherever issues or conflicts arise, the City wants young people to know where to turn to for help. In addition to open children and youth work, various social work organisations (sam, help U, Fair Play and Awareness Teams) are therefore present in public spaces to support different user groups facing disputes, uncertainty or conflicts. Acting as skilled contact persons, they provide support, de-escalate situations, mediate where possible and assist those in need. The City continues to promote these initiatives and will expand them as necessary.

The Vienna Events Act mandates specific awareness measures to protect young people from harassment at event venues, such as clubs and concerts.

Gender-sensitive violence prevention projects that are already implemented in schools and open youth work will be further supported and expanded. Existing self-defence and self-assertion courses will be made more appealing and accessible for young people.



5. Protecting and Empowering Girls and Young Women

True equality for girls and women means they can navigate public space without fear. Currently, this is not always the case: Girls report that they do not feel safe in all public areas. They highlight experiences of sexual harassment on public transport and feel that changing rooms and public restrooms are unsafe. Vienna's young people positively mentioned initiatives such as the annual '16 Days to Combat Violence Against Women' campaign, the 24h-Women's Emergency Helpline and awareness-raising efforts on public transport and in school restrooms.

Walking home at night is a major source of insecurity for girls and young women. At the same time, they have clear ideas about how their safety could be improved: In addition to better street lighting, they would like access to taxi vouchers for their way home and safe spaces specifically for women. They also emphasise the need for more information and awareness about knock-out drugs.

Not least, they point out that femicides need greater attention and that victim blaming must be challenged: Victims of violence must never be held accountable for the crime and must be believed.

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna places strong emphasis on ensuring that girls and young women feel safe, secure and able to thrive throughout the city. Gender planning has been established as a central principle of the City's planning processes. When designing public spaces, girls' and young women's subjective perceptions of safety are taken into account to enable them to explore the city confidently, both during the day and at night. Existing measures, such as improved lighting along public paths and streets, are continuously developed and strengthened with new initiatives. Emergency call stations are available in underground stations and vehicles. Wiener Linien ensures that, whenever possible, underground trains run as a single unit (without separate cars) during evening and night hours.

The City is aware that most acts of violence against girls and women are committed within their close social environment. This is why the expansion and promotion of low-threshold support services, such as the 24h-Women's Emergency Helpline remain key priorities. It is particularly important to ensure that all girls and young women are aware of those services and are able to access them whenever needed. To this end, the City uses a mix of communication channels – including podcasts, posters and social media campaigns – to raise awareness of available support.

The City of Vienna therefore places a strong focus on prevention: A specially commissioned survey on femicides and attempted femicides in Vienna highlights how crucial it is that affected women and girls, as well as witnesses of violence know where to find help. During the 16 Days to Combat Violence Against Women, the City continues to provide information on existing contact points and support services through a large-scale annual campaign. In doing so, Vienna sends a clear message: Violence against women and girls has no place in this city.

Another crucial point is that violence prevention concerns everyone. This also means that prevention efforts must be intensified among boys and men. The aim is to prevent violence within immediate social environments from emerging in the first place and to dismantle existing structures of violence. The City will therefore place even greater emphasis on work with boys, anti-violence training, therapeutic and counselling services and violence prevention in youth work and will continue to support and expand these offers.



6. Online Safety

Today, a large share of our social interaction takes place online. Yet, new possibilities also bring new problems and challenges, which affect young people in particular. Children and young people therefore call for more targeted, age-appropriate information on online risks and digital safety that reaches them where they spend their everyday lives.

One of the central concerns for children and young people in the digital realm is protection from cyberbullying. Cyberbullying refers to intentional and repeated insults, threats or exposure of a person via digital media. In this context, young Vienna residents call for easily accessible, low-threshold counselling services with short waiting times, including online options such as chats or video counselling. They also believe that prevention should be strengthened through peer-learning programmes. Furthermore, they want adults – parents, teachers and other adults in their lives – to be better informed about cyberbullying and other online risks, so that they take concerns seriously, respond at an early stage and provide qualified support.

What the City Aims to Do

With its Digital Rights Charter for Children and Young People, the City of Vienna explicitly commits to protecting children and young people in the digital realm and ensuring that they can use digital technologies and services safely and securely. Education and knowledge play an important role in this. For this reason, the City of Vienna offers a range of measures – such as workshops, informational material, social media reels and more – designed to help children and young people, as well as their parents and other trusted adults learn how to use digital devices and content safely and responsibly.

Cyber violence is taken very seriously. The City's Competence Centre Against Cyber Violence provides support for girls and women affected by cyber violence in or after relationships, or by cyberstalking from people in their immediate social circles (e.g. colleagues or acquaintances).

The City also works to raise awareness of cyber violence and bullying across all areas of young people's lives – at school, in children and youth welfare, in parent education and more. Counselling and support services are explicitly designed to meet the diverse needs of young people. In addition, the City ensures that all children and young people, as well as everyone who lives and works with them, know where to find reliable information and support.



Ideas Submitted by the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25's Community and Safety Committee:

- An online platform where children can safely make new friends.
- Enhanced street lighting .
- Improved traffic lights that prioritise pedestrians.
- Greater inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Dedicated meeting points for people experiencing homelessness, providing a safe space.

Democracy and Participation

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

All children and young people of Vienna are taken seriously and have the opportunity to participate in shaping their city. This means: If you live in Vienna, you are a part of this city. Regardless of age, national origin, citizenship, sexuality and potential disability: Participation is possible for everyone. Those who are affected by decisions should be able to participate and shape their city.

FIELDS OF ACTION

1. Participating Instead of Being Overlooked

Children and young people often feel that their voices are not fully heard in political and societal decision-making. They want more opportunities to participate and better information about existing participation options. Representation through pupil councils alone is not enough – they ask for more low-threshold formats that engage them directly and actively seek their opinions.

They also want existing participation formats, such as District Parliaments to become more transparent and appealing. They suggest making greater use of digital tools for this purpose. These tools should be designed in a child- and youth-friendly way and be easily accessible.

What the City Aims to Do

The Viennese Democracy Strategy sets the framework for a vibrant and adaptable democratic system. At its core lies the question: "How can all residents of Vienna participate effectively in public life and help shape the city?" This guiding question aims to strengthen democracy as shared, everyday practise, with a focus on participation, accessibility, responsibility and cooperation.

No other place in Austria has as many residents who cannot vote in elections as Vienna: More than one-third of its residents over the age of 16 (35.6%) are not allowed to vote. Among young Vienna residents aged 16 to 25, the figure rises to more than 4 out of 10 (41%). Their interests are therefore strongly

under-represented in politics. This under-representation also shows in participation opportunities on various topics: large parts of the population, particularly disadvantaged groups, do not take part and are difficult to reach. Targeted, low-threshold participation opportunities are especially important for these groups.

The City of Vienna ensures that children and young people can help shape their immediate environment and the city at various levels through diverse participation opportunities. Special attention is always given to accessibility and gender equality. As part of its Democracy Strategy, the City plans to develop and adopt binding quality standards for participation processes, with the goal of making participation more transparent, effective and meaningful.

2. Understanding and Experiencing Democracy

Children and young people want to learn more about democracy, understand how democratic institutions work and know the legal frameworks they are based on. They recognise that knowledge and skills are essential to participate and actively shape society. To support this, they want democratic education to be more strongly integrated into school curricula and open children and youth work, and they would like programmes that explain their rights in a clear and accessible way. Easily accessible sources of information, age- and target-group-appropriate formats as well as opportunities for engagement on an equal footing are particularly important to them.

Young people want democracy to be more than just a topic in school – they want to experience it in their everyday lives. They want to engage with politicians, learn about political institutions and understand how decisions are made. To achieve this, they call for more excursions, workshops and democratic education programmes tailored to different age groups and audiences. They also want better information about existing participation opportunities, such as Pupil and Youth Parliaments and other forms of active involvement.

What the City Aims to Do

Vienna pursues a holistic strategy to introduce children and young people to the democratic process – spanning early education institutions and schools, leisure facilities and citywide politics. The Fachstelle Demokratie ('Democracy Counseling Office') brings together and trains youth workers who engage with young people in parks and youth centres, raising awareness about democracy, political education and the prevention of extremism outside of school. The objectives are clear: Young people should know their rights, experience participation and develop the skills needed to be actively involved in democratic life.

The City's strategies combine structural integration – for example through youth mainstreaming within its administration – with direct experiences through participation projects, dialogues and workshops. In this spirit, the City intends to continue exploring and demonstrating how participation on equal footing can work via the citywide Children and Youth Parliament.

3. Democracy Requires Diversity

Children and young people speak out openly about what bothers them. They firmly reject discrimination and exclusion – in everyday life, in the education system and in social interaction. They want equality and accessibility for everyone and demand education that informs and enlightens rather than marginalises. Accordingly, they call for programmes that promote acceptance of diversity: Children should learn early to appreciate the differences among people. For them, this also means learning from a young age that there is a wide range of sexual orientations and gender identities. They call for actively challenging the spread of restrictive gender stereotypes, toxic masculinity, misogyny and other forms of hostility toward social groups – especially online.



What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna is a European metropolis shaped by migration, an international outlook and diversity. It recognises diversity not only as a given reality but also as an opportunity and potential for the city's development. The variety of lifestyles, languages, experiences and knowledge enriches all areas of life. For this reason, the City of Vienna actively promotes diversity across all areas of action, placing social inclusion at the heart of its policies and administrative work.

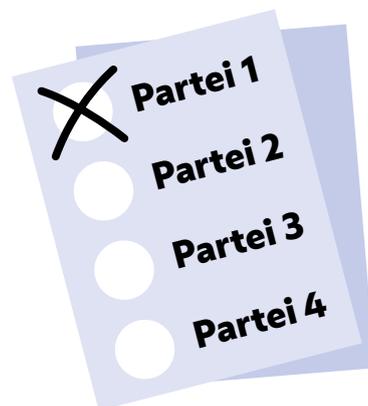
The fight against group-based hostility is further strengthened through a range of programmes and measures.

Vienna's children and young people are as diverse as the city itself. Queer children and young people have the same right to protection, empowerment and support as all children. They also require additional safeguards to ensure their safety and well-being, as they face more challenges than their peers. As a 'Rainbow City', Vienna places their interests at the centre and continuously expands support services for queer children and young people.

4. Participating – Even Without a Passport

Enabling political participation for people who are not Austrian citizens is a central concern for children and young people. They call for their right to vote, as many of them have lived in Vienna for years and have long been part of its society. Being excluded from political participation is especially difficult for young people who were born and raised in Vienna but do not hold Austrian citizenship.

In 2025, Vienna was home to 611,000 residents of voting age who were not allowed to vote in Austria due to their citizenship. This represents 35.6% of Vienna's population over the age of 16, rising to 41% among the 16- to 24-year-olds. For young Vienna residents in particular, the lack of voting rights makes it harder to identify with the city and reinforces the feeling of not being a full member of society.



What the City Aims to Do

In recent years, the City of Vienna has significantly increased the efficiency and service orientation of the department responsible for immigration and citizenship through a comprehensive reform. It also established a dedicated 'Children's Section' to process citizenship applications for children born to an Austrian parent and for children under the care of Vienna's Child and Youth Welfare Service.

Through cooperation with counselling centres and NGOs, as well as via easily understandable websites and online assistants, access to relevant information has been improved and made more accessible. To further increase transparency regarding ongoing application processes, additional formats are being developed.

Democracy relies on the participation of all citizens. As more and more young Vienna residents are unable to vote, other forms of participation are becoming increasingly important. That is why the City of Vienna continues to develop participation formats at various levels, with a particular focus on its young population. District Youth Parliaments, the Vienna Children and Youth Parliament, the Children and Youth Million, the Vienna Climate Team, its Werkstatt für Mitwirkung ('Workshop for Participation') and other projects on the City's participation platform (mitgestalten.wien.gv.at) continue to break new ground.

5. Extremism Prevention (MA 11 und MA 17)

What the City Aims to Do

The City of Vienna pursues a comprehensive strategy for extremism prevention, building on existing structures and promoting inter-departmental cooperation, exchange of expertise as well as counselling and support for those affected. The Vienna Network for Democratic Culture and Prevention (WNED) works extensively on issues such as strengthening a culture of liberal democracy and human rights, and combating ideologies of devaluation and nationalist movements. Its goal is to foster social cohesion and a democratic, pluralistic culture through cooperation between city departments, civic organisations, initiatives and targeted measures. A key focus is the professionalisation of staff and the development of concrete solutions.

Promoting democratic values, human rights and equality – especially by actively involving children and young people – is a central element of extremism prevention. For this reason, the Fachstelle Demokratie ('Democracy Counselling Office') primarily targets those who work with adolescents and young adults outside of school. Supporting low-threshold democratic participation processes, political education and extremism prevention is a core task for practitioners in extracurricular youth work.

This approach aims to raise children's and young people's awareness of democratic participation and involve them in programmes that promote respectful interaction. Special attention is given to the digital world, where adolescents spend more time than other age groups. The City intends to reach them through digital platforms to counter extremist content.

Existing open youth work initiatives, such as online street work, will be further expanded. Key priorities include digital literacy, addressing disinformation and promoting counter narratives. Training and continuous professional development of staff are essential to provide young people with effective guidance and protect them from digital radicalisation.



Ideas Submitted by the Children and Youth Parliament 2024/25's Democracy, Participation and Inclusion Committee:

- Introduce a compulsory Day of Democracy in all Viennese schools.
- Simplify procedures for changing names and civil status.
- Make it easier to obtain citizenship.
- Increase youth participation by involving youth centres in political processes.
- Raise awareness of existing participation projects and make them more visible.



Next steps

Children and young people have the right to participate in all decisions that affect their present and future. This principle is the central goal of Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030. Building on the experiences of the past five years, young people will be actively involved in developing measures and recommendations for action, as well as in monitoring and final evaluation. The role of the City's Municipal Departments and enterprises is equally crucial: Their professional expertise is essential for implementing the Strategy and the measures developed in its context. The City of Vienna aims to establish children and youth mainstreaming and create structures that guarantee long-term participation. Only together can we continue to build on the successes of the first Strategy and provide fresh impetus for the future.

IMPLEMENTATION

Junges Wien, the Coordination Office for the Vienna Children and Youth Strategy, which is a part of WIENXTRA, is responsible for coordinating the Strategy's implementation and works closely with Vienna's Municipal Department for Education and Youth. Junges Wien plans and organises the annual Children and Youth Parliament as well as the Children and Youth Million. In addition, it actively works with the City Administration within the framework of the Strategy. It supports the City's Municipal Departments in systematically incorporating the perspectives of children and young people into their plans, services and decisions.

This means that the City Administration reviews the potential impact of new projects or measures on young people, considers their needs and creates opportunities for active participation. By engaging with them in an age-appropriate manner, regularly collecting feedback and collaborating with relevant stakeholders, the City ensures that children's and young

people's views are recognised, strengthened and systematically integrated into everyday work.

Networking

For the coordinated and effective implementation of the Vienna Children and Youth Strategy across the city, a diverse range of committees and the structured collaboration between Municipal Departments, partner organisations and other relevant institutions are essential.

This is why Junges Wien organises semi-annual steering meetings with representatives from all Administrative Groups to jointly keep track of the Strategy's implementation in the various subject areas. Additionally, experts from the city's Municipal Departments and enterprises meet twice a year for professional exchanges, reporting on the current status of measures and receiving the latest expert input regarding the Children and Youth Strategy. Another key committee is an Advisory Board composed of representatives from relevant

Municipal Departments, open children and youth work and other relevant partners. This board serves both as an advisory body and as a network of disseminators for the Children and Youth Strategy.

Building connections within the City and among the relevant committees is a core responsibility of Junges Wien. It is essential for the successful implementation of the Children and Youth Strategy. In addition, ongoing domestic and international networking allows Junges Wien to learn from other cities facing similar challenges, establish mutually beneficial cooperation and gain new perspectives on problem solving.

Children and Youth Parliament

Vienna's Children and Youth Parliament, one of the most important and enduring outcomes of the first Children and Youth Strategy, is here to stay. It has quickly established itself as an effective platform for making the concerns of Vienna's young population heard. In the coming years, it will continue to meet annually with delegates aged 5 to 20. In addition to developing specific measures and general recommendations for action, the Children and Youth Parliament, supported by the coordination office Junges Wien, will be strengthened as a committee serving as a point of contact for politicians and administrators and representing the interests of Vienna's young population.

From Goals and Fields of Action to Specific Measures

An exciting and challenging task awaits the delegates in the coming years: They will develop concrete measures and recommendations for action across the eight subject areas of the Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030. The delegates will consider which specific steps city politicians can take and what else can be done to best meet the wishes and needs of young Vienna residents.

Yet, the delegates will not face this demanding task alone. In a co-creative process, they will be supported by the City Administration – particularly when addressing questions such as: Which measures fall within the City's sphere of competence, and how can they be funded and implemented? Together, they will work on formulating measures and recommendations for action that the City can

realistically carry out and that will make Vienna an even better place to live for children and young people.

Report to the City Council

The measures and recommendations for action developed by the delegates are discussed with members of the Vienna City Government and presented jointly. Each session of the Children and Youth Parliament concludes with a resolution outlining these measures and recommendations. This annual resolution is submitted to the Vienna City Council as a formal report. The responsible Municipal Departments are then tasked with implementing the measures.

Monitoring

Within the framework of the Children and Youth Strategy, the Children and Youth Ombuds-Office (KIJA) is responsible for monitoring the development and implementation of measures. In doing so, the Vienna Children and Youth Ombuds-Office follows the principles of children's rights – including non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, and children's rights to development and participation – and actively involves children and young people in the monitoring process.

The monitoring process will be adapted flexibly to the Strategy's progress, and its results will be communicated regularly – annually in the form of a report and when needed through statements on specific measures and recommendations for action. In addition to its monitoring mandate, the Children and Youth Ombuds-Office will support the delegates of the Children and Youth Parliament

as needed, providing expertise on children's rights, guidance on individual questions and targeted networking related to specific measures and recommendations for action.

Evaluation

Before developing a new edition of the Children and Youth Strategy, the entire process and implementation of the current Strategy will be evaluated, taking into account input from children and young people, involved Municipal Departments and enterprises, as well as associations from the fields of education, youth work and youth welfare associations. The coordination office Junges Wien and the relevant committees will define the specific purpose and questions of the evaluation, identify participants and affected parties and design appropriate child- and youth-friendly procedures.



Thank you!

At this point, we would like to extend a special thank you to all the children and young people who participated in our projects over the past few years. The Vienna Children and Youth Strategy 2025–2030 would not exist in its current form without their involvement in the committees of the Vienna Children and Youth Parliament, their creative ideas for the Participatory Children and Youth Million and their honest contributions during dialogues with politicians.

A big thank you also goes out to all members of the City Government and the Vienna City Council who took the time to engage in discussions with children and young people, listened attentively and answered their questions.

In particular, we would like to thank Dolores Bakos and Marina Hanke, members of the Vienna City Council, for their tireless dedication to making the city more child- and youth-friendly.

We would also like to thank the experts from the City's Municipal Departments and the advisors of the Administrative Groups for their expertise, their experiences across various fields and their contribution to the content of this strategy. By participating in our expert and steering group meetings, they helped make the concerns of children and young people visible within the City Administration and enabled the implementation of numerous measures and projects of the Children and Youth Strategy.

Municipal Departments and Institutions Participating in Expert Meetings:

- Information Technology (Wien Digital)
- Personnel Service
- Financial Affairs
- Cultural Affairs
- Municipal and Provincial Archives of Vienna
- Kindergartens
- Child and Youth Welfare Service
- Education and Youth – Youth Division
- Public Health Services
- Integration and Diversity
- Urban Development and Planning
- Architecture and Urban Design
- Energy Planning
- District Planning and Land Use Northeast
- Environmental Protection
- Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics
- Strategic Healthcare
- Technical Urban Renewal
- Road Management and Construction
- Bridge Construction and Foundation Engineering
- Vienna Water
- Public Lighting
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Inspection of Business Establishments, Fire Prevention and Events
- Building Inspection
- Testing Centre, Inspection and Certification Body
- Social Welfare, Social and Public Health Law
- Surveying
- Parks and Gardens
- Municipal Swimming Pools
- Water Management
- Traffic Management and Organisation
- Waste Management, Street Cleaning and Vehicle Fleet
- Climate, Forestry and Agriculture
- Housing Promotion and Arbitration Board for Legal Housing Matters
- Sports Office
- Communication and Media
- Procurement and Logistics
- Schools
- Vienna Women's Affairs
- Water Rights
- Market Authority
- Elections and Specific Legal Affairs
- Commerce and Trade, Data Protection and Register Offices
- Legal Affairs: Transport and Traffic
- Supervision of On-Street Parking
- Real Estate Management
- Vienna Board of Education
- Vienna Children and Youth Ombuds-Office
- WAST Vienna Anti-Discrimination Office for LGBTIQ Matters
- Human Rights Office
- Executive Group for Construction and Technology
- Wiener Wohnen
- wohnfonds_wien
- Wohnpartner Wien
- Vienna Housing Service
- Vienna Health Promotion
- Vienna Psychosocial Services
- Vienna Social Fund
- Vienna Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection
- Ombuds Office for Animal Protection
- Vienna Waste Water Management
- Vienna Equal Treatment Commission
- Vienna Museums
- Vienna Business Agency
- Wiener Stadtwerke GmbH & Wiener Linien

A big thank you goes to the Municipal Department for Education and Youth, its Head of Department, the Youth Officer for Vienna, and all other colleagues for the collaboration. The members of the Advisory Board for Vienna's Children and Youth Strategy have supported the development of the Strategy from the very beginning with their expert input and thoughtful insights. Without their contributions, the strategy could not have been developed in such depth and breadth.

A Heartfelt Thank You Goes to:

- Municipal Department for Education and Youth – Youth Division
- Vienna School Board
- BiM – Bildung im Mittelpunkt
- Office of the Administrative Group for Education, Youth, Integration, Transparency and Vienna Markets
- Municipal Department for Integration and Diversity
- Municipal Department for Vienna Kindergartens
- Child and Youth Welfare Service
- KUS Network for Education, Social Affairs, Sports and Culture
- 'Cult-Jugendarbeit wirkt' association
- Verein Wiener Jugendzentren (Association of Viennese Youth Centres)
- Representatives of the governing parties







