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Science linking with School
School linking with Science

PROJECT OUTLOOK, 27th of October 2008

Youth@Risk

Perception of Risk of Adolescents – Risks from a
perspective of Adolescents, Science and Media

LEADING INSTITUTION

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SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION PARTNERS

Austrian Institute of Ecology
Alpen-Adria University of Klagenfurt:
Institute for Social Ecology
Institute of Instructional and School Development

SCHOOLS INVOLVED

Gymnasium Schlierbach, Upper Austria
Friedrich Schiller Gymnasium in Bleichrode, D



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Austrian Federal Ministry of
Science and Research

Youth@Risk

Perception of Risk of Adolescents – Risks from a perspective of Adolescents, Sciences and Media

Target of this project is **to explore the subjective perception of risk of adolescents**. This research question has not been explored systematically yet. Adolescents will be involved actively into the scientific process. Research of risk perception of adolescents is going to be affected using qualitative and quantitative methods. High value is set on **differences between young women and men concerning risk perception**.

Additionally researchers will analyse deviations between subjectively perceived and objectively evaluated risks. To explore interactions of sciences, media and risk perception of adolescents it is necessary to involve adolescents actively. Within this so-called research-education-cooperation pupils of the secondary school “Gymnasium Schlierbach” together with researchers of the Institute for Pharmaeconomic Research, the Institute of Ecology as well as the Institute for Social Ecology will investigate risk perception of adolescents and therefore fundamentally contribute within an area characterised by immense need for future research.

Teachers and pupils are going to be made familiar with methods, which can be integrated in everyday life at school on the long run. Working together with researchers on a joint research project pupils consider as ‚interesting‘ and ‚exciting‘. They attach importance to an intensive and continuous process of communication with researchers. For teachers this kind of cooperation is an enrichment of their professional routine. They expect impulses for the whole regular schooling and consider that this project serves as a chance to familiarise pupils with scientific methods.

The scientific team members expect new insights concerning risk perception of adolescents with the main focus on risk and sustainability research. It is important to generate results, which would not have been accessible without integration of adolescents.




Due to the intensive room for manoeuvre of the adolescents (e.g. workshop with other adolescents, creation and elicitation of questionnaires) the necessity for translation, which else wise resists, is not necessary and results will be more authentically than it would be in case of census without active participation of adolescents.

Researchers dealing with educational research are able to – due to the complexity of the topic – generate findings concerning the approach of adolescents to hardly comprehensible, but anyhow in everyday life fixed topics and to incorporate those findings into their scientific research.

Accompanying the project will be evaluated by the Institute for the Development of Education and School. The results will be played back to the project partners and validated communicatively. Furthermore the results should be embedded in the configuration of long term cooperations between schools and researchers on the one hand, and in the integration of the research-education-cooperation into the mission statement of “Gymnasium Schlierbach” on the other hand.

This research-education-cooperation will be popularised beyond national boundaries, as the partner school of “Gymnasium Schlierbach” – the secondary school ‚Friedrich Schiller Gymnasium‘ in Bleicherode, Germany – will be partly integrated into the project.





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