

## Activating young people in Hollabrunn

On 23rd of June 2009, a kick-off event took place in the “old slaughterhouse”, a meeting place for associations and youth groups in Hollabrunn. Originally, the event was designed to take place in the public pool area. The rainy weather in Austria made this impossible.

The working group “youth” designed and organised the event together. They were supported by the advisors of the Lower Austrian Association for Village Renewal and Urban Regeneration.

The goal was to collect as many ideas of young people in Hollabrunn as possible to improve the attractiveness of Hollabrunn for young people.

There were about 25 participants, who were very motivated and brought some very clear ideas. These ideas were collected on cards and then clustered according to their common themes.

These topics are: Recreational activities in general, shopping facilities and evening activities. Regarding the Shopping-topic, these young people had very clear ideas for types of shops, they miss in Hollabrunn. In general, there were quite a few project-ideas that are typically urban and typical for a larger agglomeration, like an amusement park or cinemas. The idea of these young people about what a town has to offer seems to reflect the structures of bigger cities. That suggests that young people could move out of the smaller cities for at least a few years and might come back, when they have a family and raise children. That fact should be looked into in more detail.

In the course of the kick-off event, the free radio station “Radio Ypsilon” offered a guided tour through the studio, including a short live radio show about “Youth innovating Hollabrunn”. Some participants were very interested in the radio and there will be more information and training for them during the summer at the radio station.

The participants were very interested in further meetings and to try to carry out some ideas.

The next event will take place during the summer school holidays in the public pool area. Details can be found on [www.hollabrunn.gv.at](http://www.hollabrunn.gv.at).

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