



17 goals for everyone! An idea grows

Following the project Goal 17 - Children Change the World! in January 2023, artists from sideviews met with children, school management, and teachers from Nürtingen Primary School. The children's desire was for a sustainable artistic exploration of the 17 SDGs. The aim was to find a format that as many people as possible could approach the 17 SDGs. How can the widest possible audience be reached, and how can a vision of a future world be developed together? The idea of a collective film project about the significance and possibilities of the 17 SDGs emerged, involving as many people from the school community and beyond (neighborhood, other schools, digital space) as possible. A project by children, for children, and also for adults, who often know little about the 17 SDGs..



If I were queen of the world, I would...

The children, teachers, school management, and artists from sideviews agree that the 17 goals should be artistically elaborated in 17 short film episodes over the coming years – sometimes in the format of a tutorial, sometimes as a quiz show, documentary, or news program. They want to invite people to approach the topic of "sustainable development," to provide an impetus for independent action, and to convey knowledge to enable participation for those most affected: children! At the same time, artistic work should be used as a vent to strengthen one's own agency and to address global challenges. The children invent and plan, from conception to implementation to dissemination. Essential here is the transfer into their own reality: What does the goal mean for their everyday life and environment? What is required to implement the goal? What needs to change in the world? And what can each person contribute?

Inventing/improvising/and... Action!

What story do we want to tell? And how? How can we tell our topic in a film in a way that everyone understands? From the brainstorming, the children select what appears important to them and develop short scenes with the help of theater improvisations. They showcase these scenes and discuss together which ones are usable. What content is still missing? How could it be represented? And how can different perspectives on a situation be shown? It is negotiated among themselves how the content can be made understandable and comprehensible for others and which story should be told and how. On the last project day, we shoot the film: Everyone has a role, children who cannot be filmed get tasks like camera work, sound, clapperboard, set-runner, makeup, costume, production management, assistant directing – just like in a real film.



Grand opening!

After the film returns from post-production, the children present the finished episode to the school community, and there is a discussion and reflection session together. Additionally, the children take on a role of supporting their goal and their film: they develop playful proposals on how the film and the content of their goal can be used in the classroom. These pupil mentors can be invited by other classes to participate in their lessons. Furthermore, a set of cards is created, which can be used to convey the 17 goals by referencing the films. The films and accompanying materials are also digitally published, making them freely accessible to the general public.

Never ending process...

All 10 completed episodes are evaluated. Already during the work process, we reflect and plan together for the next steps. After filming, there is a one-hour evaluation discussion with the teachers, who also discuss their experiences with their class. What has gone well or less well in each case can thus be incorporated into the next project steps. Each episode is a negotiation process between children, teachers, and artists, which activates reflection on the respective goal and the contradictions arising from it. The entire school community is invited to engage with the films and their production processes. The episodes do not aim to cover every aspect exhaustively, as they tell stories that have emerged from a negotiation process of different perspectives. They are to be understood as an encouragement to engage with the 17 SDGs. This process will be continued in the future in the cinematic implementation of the remaining 7 SDGs with other schools, and the already realized episodes will be activated through teacher training, pupil mentorship, and further outreach activities.

STORIES OF INVOLVEMENT – EXAMPLES FROM PRACTICE

GOAL 17 - GET TOGETHER NOW!

Location: Nürtingen Primary School, Berlin-Kreuzberg, Germany

Time: April - December 2023

People involved:

250 primary school students from grades 4-6, Markus Schega - Principal of Nürtingen Primary School, Wiebke Janzen - Cultural Officer of Nürtingen Primary School

Artists from sideviews: Anja Scheffer - Director and Actress, Daniel Harder - Director, Anna Bartels - Cultural Mediator, Cornelis Harder - Editor, Bela Brauckmann - Sound Design and Music, Christoph Mangler - Camera, 13 Children from the Youth Committee Schattenmuseum, Elis Nägele - Illustrations, Moritz Scheffer - Graphics, Silke Ballath - Conceptualization and Editing of accompanying materials, Annika Niemann - Conceptualization and Editing of accompanying materials, 13 teachers, educators, and other educational staff



Opening the stage

After a meeting between the artists from sideviews and the teacher, the children first engage with their teachers with the 17 goals in general and finally choose a goal that they want to implement. The teachers provide the artists with their preliminary work on a Padlet. Then the artistic work begins. Each episode is implemented in a 6 days project. On the first day, we gather their knowledge on a flip chart through brainstorming with the children. The collection forms the material from which we can develop scenes: Who believes that the goals will be achieved by 2030? Who is most affected here - whose future? How much say do you have in the implementation of the 17 goals? What role do children's rights play? Democracy? We think about what children would do globally if they were allowed to have a say and what they would need for things to change. Now the bridge to the film is built.

