

## CHANGING THE ENVIRONMENT

### Children initiate changes in Brno

The final plan is the result of an investigation and creative process carried out by nursery schoolchildren in Brno. They started investigating existing infrastructure to decide on what best suited their needs for an adventure playground in which they would feel safe and encouraged to do exercise. Drawings were done in the classroom (see beside) to support the planning process and create ownership among the children and the rest of the educational community.



The playground was financed jointly by the school, the Health Ministry, the Shape Up project and the council. This demonstrates how sustainable and feasible child initiatives can be.



### School playground in Athens

Shape Up children decided to take matters into their own hands. The nursery schoolchildren took action by changing their little playground area into a colourful garden, choosing and planting Mediterranean aromatic herbs, which do not need much water to grow, and other beautiful plants, finally bringing some colour to their everyday school environment.

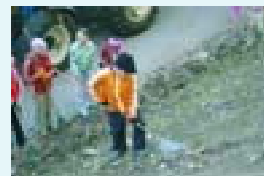
### A playground in Maastricht

One of the ideas selected by the pupils' council at De Poort Primary School was to initiate the building of a playground for the gypsy community.



### A school playground in Turku

Take care of our school playground: brooms and rakes were busy on this Turkuquidditch day.



### Bonn: a Viking ship has arrived at Stiftsschule

Pupils, parents and staff at Stiftsschule Primary School in Bonn came up with the idea of transforming the asphalt-covered schoolyard into a friendly and inviting playground. When the school joined Shape Up, the project gained fresh impetus and, together with the Local Promoting Group (LPG), a roadmap was created. The needs at Stiftsschule were investigated and the pupils expressed their desire for an exciting playground. To develop a concrete vision, pupils painted pictures and built models of their ideal playground. Together with LPG member and architect Volker Langenbach, the task force looked at the pupils' ideas and decided that a wooden Viking ship would make the perfect playground.



The funding was the biggest problem; however, as a result of winning the second prize in a school competition and obtaining additional funding by organising a sponsored run in the neighbourhood and selling coffee and cakes, their ship arrived on 4 December. With the exception of the building of the ship, the pupils participated in every stage of the project. This is the final result:



### New bike parks in Maastricht

Students would like to cycle to school, because cycling is healthy and fun, but there is no safe place to park their bikes in the school playground. Actually, there is no place at all where they can park their bikes while at school. Students have recently been successful in their campaign for a place to park bikes.

### A new sports hall in Ballerup

In Måløv, very close to the school, a new sports hall has been built; the problem is that not many people use it. The students came up with very good ideas, such as using the brand new kitchen (currently housing a coffee machine) as a canteen for the young schoolchildren. Other ideas included music, dance and singing during the day and at break time. A questionnaire was established for Ballerup/Måløv, asking people what they would like to do. The project will seek to transform the sports hall into a new cultural/health centre.

### A healthy and safe school in Maastricht

At the Poort Primary School in Maastricht, the children chose three healthy ideas on which they wished to take action. One of these ideas was creating a healthy and safe school environment. Around the school, cars drive too fast and there is no a pedestrian crossing to cross the street safely. The children wanted to change that. They organised a meeting with an officer of the municipality to discuss the safety problem around the school. They presented their plans on how to take action and make the school surroundings safer (for example, by building a pedestrian crossing). The council official discussed the children's plans with the alderman and together they are looking at options in order to take action!



### Changing the environment in Lakatamia

The pupils of the Sixth Primary school were determined of changing a space within their yard, which used to be a parking place and still look as a parking place. Currently they ordered three "exercise stations" for outdoor activities.

