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Evaluation report on the participation of students in the Oasis project

Summary

As part of the Oasis project, a process of co-designing new playgrounds took place in each of the schools participating in the project, with the students and with the educational staff. The invitation to participate came through the organization of workshops for students and work meetings with school teams, and was led by the Council for Architecture, Urban Planning and the Environment of Paris (CAUE 75). Fifteen workshops were observed in the Maryse Hilsz and Jeanne d'Arc elementary schools, and the Pierre Alviset middle school, by the LIEPP team.

In all the schools, the workshops followed the same principle. First, a presentation of climate change, its challenges and the concepts needed to understand it. Then, the groups worked on the uses and issues of the courtyard, creating a diagnosis. The students participating worked on their own uses and questioned the uses of other actors, children and adults alike. The diagnosis of the courtyard consisted, for example, in reporting on the furniture present, its condition, the sunny areas, the flow of water, vegetation, etc. Finally, the proposal formulation phase came last in this workshop process.

These workshops provoked great enthusiasm among students in the three schools observed. The students were made aware of many notions relating to climate change and its challenges. The workshops encouraged the expression of ideas by the children, and this more effectively than writing a text or oral expression would have been. In addition, this system encouraged the involvement of children in the OASIS project and their participation in public action. Their proposals undeniably contributed to thought process of the adults present thanks to the key work of mediation and synthesis by the CAUE staff.

A stronger articulation with the National Education (professionals, school programs and educational resources already existing or to be created) constitutes the main avenue for improvement and continuation of these workshops.