Deciding together: children practise it in their neighbourhood

A neighbourhood becomes an adventure. Children become explorers.

Across Europe, school students are taking to the streets. In Germany, tens of thousands demonstrated on 31 October under the motto “Gen Z regelt”, followed on 20 November by an education protest in Berlin co-organised by the Federal Students' Conference (Bundesschülerkonferenz). What unites them: young people want a say in decisions about their future. Having a say is something you learn early, and children want to be heard too. In Berlin-Rixdorf, children aged 8 to 12 practise it outdoors in their neighbourhood, in the GPS treasure hunt “The Lost Chest of Rixdorf” by Localnauts.

What does democracy actually mean?

The word comes from Greek: dēmos, the people, and kratos, power. Children are part of the people too. They cannot vote yet, but they can have a say and help decide wherever their lives are concerned. The trend study “Jugend in Deutschland 2026” (Youth in Germany 2026) shows that polarisation among young people is growing. According to youth researcher Klaus Hurrelmann, the young generation feels it has too little say. The German government's 16th Children and Youth Report stresses that political education begins in childhood. This is where Localnauts comes in. The game strengthens children in speaking their mind, listening to others and finding solutions together. Democracy becomes something they can experience through play, as a low-threshold starting point for all children.

How the game works

A crew of two to six children plays with one smartphone or tablet, as a web app in the browser. The roles of navigator and chronicler change at every station, so every child leads the crew at least once, including the quiet ones. Along the way, the crew makes six team decisions: it shares out supplies for the winter, decides who rings the bells and deals with a water pump that belongs to everyone. Before each vote, every child says one sentence. Many decisions come back later in the game, and the children notice: what we decide has consequences. At the end, they collect ideas for what their neighbourhood needs today.

A village that governed itself

The place was chosen deliberately. In 1737, King Frederick William I took in Bohemian refugees who had been persecuted for their faith and granted them freedom of religion. Eighteen families were settled in Rixdorf. Bohemian Rixdorf governed its community life for a long time, with its own village mayor who was also the local judge, until the merger with German Rixdorf in 1874. In their Moravian congregation (Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine), the refugees valued equal rights for all members, and women held important positions. The

children step into the roles of apprentices from that time and experience history from their point of view. The Museum im Böhmischen Dorf supported the historical content.

For schools and families

For school classes from year 3, Localnauts links to the Berlin-Brandenburg curriculum framework, in primary social studies and in social sciences for years 5 and 6 (topic “Democracy and participation”). Teachers receive the companion booklet “Mission Control” for follow-up. Families can play any day or give the game as a Christmas gift voucher. Localnauts was developed by social pedagogue Christine Möllers of PLURI Edutainment and tried out with children in several test runs. More Berlin neighbourhoods are to follow, each with local museums and partners.

> *“Democracy is a big word. But what does it actually mean?” asks Christine Möllers, founder of PLURI Edutainment. “For me, democracy is above all something you live. It takes competences and a sense of togetherness. It starts small, in the family: listening to each other, letting others finish, being allowed to disagree, being open to compromise and deciding together. How do you actually reach a decision? That is exactly what children practise with Localnauts, outdoors in their neighbourhood.”*

How democracy is built into the game

Deciding together	Six team decisions, each child says one sentence first
Accepting disagreement	Vote on two well-argued proposals, both sides have good reasons
Sharing responsibility	Roles change at every station, every child leads at least once
Experiencing consequences	Earlier decisions come back later in the game
Changing perspectives	Nine apprentices from 1737, history from several viewpoints
Recognition	Seals for skills shown, mutual praise at the barn
Shaping today	At the last station the crew says what the neighbourhood needs today

Facts at a glance

Route	“The Lost Chest of Rixdorf”, Bohemian Village, Berlin-Neukölln
Start	Richardplatz, 12055 Berlin
Age	8 to 12, school classes from year 3
For	School classes, after-school clubs, holiday programmes, families
Route length	10 stations, 2.5 km, 2 to 3 hours including breaks
Technology	Web app in the browser, one smartphone or tablet per crew, German and English

Crew	2 to 6 children per game code
Price	Schools and groups 9 € per child incl. companion booklet “Mission Control” · Families 24 € per crew (introductory price), also as a gift voucher
More	localnauts.com/en · Schools: localnauts.com/en/for-groups · Sources: localnauts.com/en/sources

About PLURI Edutainment

PLURI Edutainment develops games in which people decide together and see things from other perspectives. The name comes from “pluri”, meaning many: many viewpoints and ways of life exist side by side, and it is worth connecting them. Founder Christine Möllers has worked in education, social work and culture for many years and tested and developed Localnauts with children. The company sees itself as a social-impact business. The next route is in the works.

Press contact

Christine Möllers · PLURI Edutainment · hello@pluri.world · +49 176 82043257 · localnauts.com

We are happy to send journalists a game code so they can walk the route themselves.

Images

Logo, the two Localnauts graphics and photos of the Bohemian Village, free to use with the credit “PLURI Edutainment”: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K64wkZrpi1Jo9vB4goUwVC43DeeYbAli