



## From the lab into the holidays!

During their journey from the research laboratory to the finished drug, 180 kids from 5 schools of Graz experienced firsthand innovation. Desired side effect: With the look behind the scenes of the pharmaceutical industry, the curiosity for the scientific area was awakened.

With the project „Medikamente im Fokus“ the RCPE got into an exciting dialogue with children and young people from Styria. The ambitious aim: To awake the scientific curiosity of our youth and, subsequently, motivate them for a scientific-technological career resp. choice of study. To achieve this aim, RCPE took a networking function between schools, universities and companies, and brought the young people on site. The 9-18 year old talents experienced the way from research to production and got to know more about the fabrication of drugs and the safe handling of medicines.

That the enterprise was successful proves the positive response of the pupils: *“The trips to the university were great, the experiments cool and we met just nice people!”* tells us a student in the lower grades. *“For me, especially the contact with the students in the mentoring program was great. Now I have a much clearer idea of what it means to be a researcher and now I’m definitely sure to start a career in this area.”* says the 17 year old who wants to start to study at Graz University of Technology next year. The teachers were inspired as well: *“Since the end of the project, 2 girls of my class want to become a pharmacist and one boy wants “in any case work at the lab” to analyze everything what comes into his hands.”*

The positive feedback also pleases the FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency), which has set a future-oriented step with the program “Talente regional”. The project “Medikamente im Fokus” in the school year 2012/2013 was nationwide one of 11 selected projects, which was funded by the program. The vision behind the program is obvious: Namely to obtain the innovation performance of Austria. The FFG is convinced that *“our talents are our greatest assets. It is the ideas of wise heads that make Austria internationally competitive, now and in the future.”*

### Press contact

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