



Up-and-coming rapper Drob Dynamic still can't believe that he won the "RAPutation" competition. His response: "Man! Praise the Lord! Unreal!" Drob Dynamic will now have the chance to produce his own track, with the help of renowned rap producers like 7inch and Melbeatz and rap heavyweight Fard. It's an opportunity that might launch his career. "Thank you so much! You're going to hear a lot more from me," he promises.

Berliner Robert Andjelkovic, a.k.a. Drob Dynamic, has been dreaming of becoming a successful rapper since his early 20s. And he not only has the voice for the job, but he also has a message. "It's a real honor for me that so many people like my lyrics, and it would be great if a few people would take a closer look at what I have to say about the government and politics."

"Message to Merkel"

RAPutation looks for the best political rappers in Germany to give them the chance to promote their art, their creativity and their lyrics. The competition is part of the Robert Bosch Stiftung's "You have the power" competition, which uses modern methods to get young people interested in political

issues. The film production company UFA was put in charge of organizing the event. This year, RAPutation was honored with Europe's CIVIS media prize.

A total of 250 applications were submitted, and the ten best were assigned a series of musical tasks. A "Message to Merkel" was the first task, followed by "Put your finger on the pulse of history" and "Your election campaign ad for 2013!" The jury included Fard, an Iranian-German rapper who stormed to second place on the German charts with his album "Bellum et pax." Fard knows that to create a rap hit it takes flow, a style all your own, good technique, and extreme content – that's what really scores points. In addition to the jury, people were allowed to vote online for the rapper they felt best fit these criteria. The videos received well over 300,000 hits on YouTube.

Drob Dynamic submitted his track "Wir alle sind es leid" ("Sick and Tired"), which

"Kreuzberg was crying out as the rents kept getting higher and higher, big shot investors bought our homes and flipped them to outsiders, just to make a little dough."



Drob Dynamic fires up the audience in Berlin. Photos: Anita Back

The video on YouTube:



blames Berlin's politicians for not doing anything to stop the gentrification in his native Berlin district of Kreuzberg. The spike in rents drove Drob Dynamic out of Kreuzberg and into nearby Neukölln. The video shows him on the streets of his old neighborhood: "Ladies and gentlemen, may I present: gentrification (...) See how the man has set his sights on us/For if you ain't got the cash, time to pack and dash."

Politicians are impressed

Drob Dynamic won the jury over with his performance and his lyrics. Fard gave it a thumbs-up, but said he'd like to see the rapper "be a little more aggressive." The young musicians performed their songs for German politicians, including former Bundestag President Wolfgang Thierse and Hans-Gert Pöttering, the former president of the European Parliament. "The politicians were impressed with the artistic features and political content of the songs," says Anna Moll, managing editor of "You have the power." "Meeting face-to-face helped break down barriers on both sides," she added. Some politicians offered the young artists an internship at the Bundestag or the opportunity to work on their next election campaign. *ku*

When entire schools are facing burnout

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is sponsoring ten schools in Berlin's disadvantaged areas

Sometimes, it all just gets to be too much. Stress at work and at home, feeling overwhelmed – suddenly, you can no longer function. When burnout is on the horizon, pulling the emergency brake is the only solution. Then comes therapy and rest. But what can be done when an entire school is on the brink of burning out?

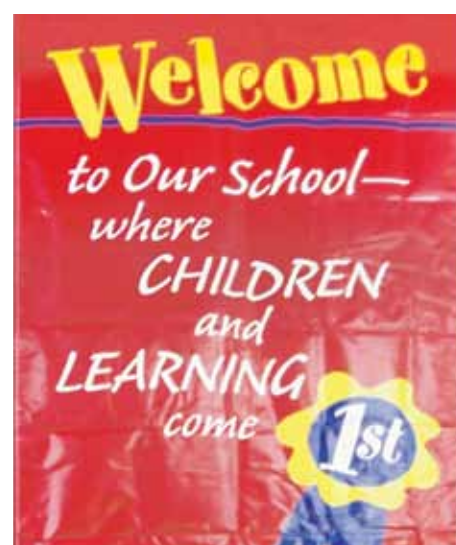
Increasing numbers of schools in big cities are reaching the limits of their abilities to cope. Many students are lacking the necessary language skills and have no prospects for the future. Their families can't provide them with the support they need, and that has an effect on schools. Teachers are overwhelmed and are often absent from work. The school finally reaches a point where it simply can no longer function.

Therapy for these schools comes in the form of "School Turnaround." For the first

time, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Berlin Senate's Department of Education, Youth, and Science are sponsoring ten schools in some of Berlin's most disadvantaged areas that can no longer fulfill their educational mandate. The elementary and secondary schools have all the warning signs of schools in trouble. Enrollment is down at the schools, students are often absent, there are many dropouts, student performance is poor, and not enough of the students graduate.

Proven internationally

School Turnaround provides coaching teams to offer advice, a school network to promote an exchange of ideas, and targeted approaches for each school. The concept of individual support is already a proven success, since in New York City, England, and the Netherlands schools have



School Turnaround puts the focus on students.

Photo: T. Geißler

used this method to get back on the right track. Employees of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Berlin Senate visited inner city schools in New York, where the School Turnaround concept is being rolled out on a large scale. The Berliners, now armed with the experience of their New York City Board of Education colleagues and a number of new ideas, are hoping for a turnaround of their own.

The initiative will receive €1 million over the next two years. Berlin Education Senator Sandra Scheeres has a clear goal in mind: "I believe the aim should be for noticeable improvement in the relevant quality benchmarks – such as teaching and learning processes, school management, school culture and performance results – at the participating schools by 2015." Students and teachers should enjoy working and learning at their schools. *ar*