

Profile and Competences Association ScienceCenter-Netzwerk

Aim:

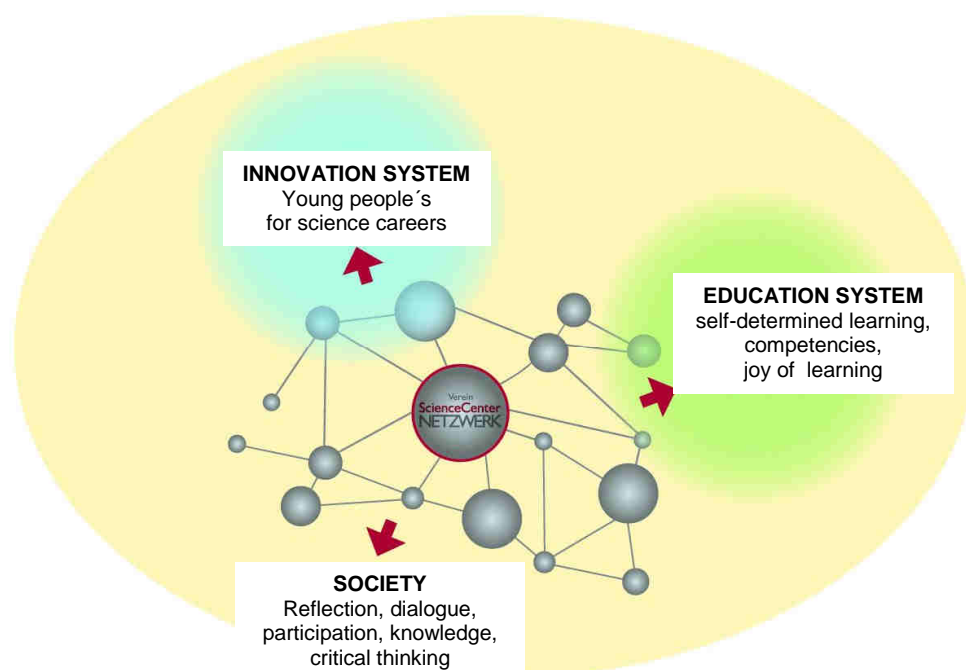
Inter- und transdisciplinary research on the development, implementation, usage and effects of science-center-activities, interactive exhibits and informal learning. Enabling light-hearted access to directly experience and comprehend science and technology, fostering curiosity and joyful experimentation and critical thinking.

Strategy:

Highlight and research the potential of interactive science-center-activities to contribute to societal challenges, apply them to harvest the potential; create strong multiplier effect through networking and cooperation.

Focus:

Science-center-activities are interactive offers, through which users can explore and understand scientific or technical phenomena and relation in a playful and self-determined way – independent of their prior knowledge and connected to their daily life.



Core competencies:

- Transformation of scientific-technological content into science-center-activities (hands-on, minds-on) of various formats (hands-on exhibits, mobile experiments, dialogue games). Topics include natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, technology, medicine:
 - Concept development / Consultancy
 - Detailed planning of activities / exhibits
 - Implementation / dissemination
 - Documentation
 - Accompanying research
- Project coordination and management
- Contributions, publications, facilitation: dialogue science & society
- Steering and organisation of networks
- Trainings for professionals from research, economy, education, etc., training of science communicators („explainers“)
- National and international hub for science engagement, knowledge transfer

Cooperations:

More than 150 network partners throughout Austria, covering research, science communication, museums, education, schools, arts, and media. Established project cooperations on exhibit development and design, printed media and online content.

International network of cooperations on science center, science communication, education, multipliers; member of ECSITE (European Network of Science Centres and Museums) and EUSEA (European Science Festival Association).

Target groups:

- Children (kindergarten, primary school, high school)
- Adults, especially teacher, (grand) parents, seniors
- Stakeholder from the educational and innovation system
- Special target groups (prisoners, retirees, migrants, patients, students, etc.)
- Special focus on social inclusion (socioeconomically deprived)

Selected projects:

- „Knowledge°room – a workshop for curious people“, low-threshold science-center-activities in empty shops in low socioeconomic areas of Vienna
- Travelling exhibition „Interdependencies“, 20 interactive exhibits, 7.000 visitors (2014-)
- „Learning with you is fun“, buddy-Project with teenagers mentoring primary school pupils, 30 pairings of schools; 20 trainings for school staff
- Trainings for teachers of all school types and subjects on science center didactics, inquiry-based learning and applied research topics
- Development, facilitation and trainings of discussion games (playDECIDE, poverty line, move-on, SAAATELLIT)
- Workshop series „explainer professionalisation“
- Participation in European projects, e.g. SEE SCIENCE, networking of science center actors in South-East Europe; PLACES – Cities of Scientific Culture; VOICES – Views, Opinions & Ideas of Citizens in Europe on Science
- Network project „Grenzgenial“, >30 partners involved, 7 locations with multiple zones, 21 interactive exhibits
- „Science in a Backpack“: tour around Austrian small towns with a backpack full of mobile experiments
- „Discover medicine“: interactive offers for adult oncology patients in Vienna´s General Hospital / oncology day clinic
- „Inquiry-based science learning“: year-long cooperation with primary schools in 5 Austrian counties, 1.000 pupils, accompanying research
- Idea competition „Hands-on X-Net“ for youngsters <26 years, multiple contributions, public presentations
- Travelling exhibition „Discover Net(work)s“ with various interactive exhibits, 10 locations Austria-wide, 75.000 visitors

see www.science-center-net.at