

# ZSI eJournal May 2013

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ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION  
 CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

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**All Innovations are socially relevant.  
 Alle Innovationen sind sozial relevant.**

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### EDITORIAL

**Austrian Climate Days - 14th edition**

The increasing involvement of ZSI in research on climate issues

The conference setting of the annual "Climate Day" provides an overview concerning current topics relevant in climate change, research results, adaptation and mitigation strategies. This year about 170 participants were registered from science, public administration and many stakeholder groupings. It took place on April 4-5, 2013, at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna ([BOKU](#)). This year's event was for the first time organised under the responsibility of the Climate Change Centre Austria ([CCCA](#)), an association connecting climate research organisations of Austria in a bottom-up process. ZSI is founding member of CCCA, and was also involved in the conference. The CCCA has been officially established in July 2011 as a coordinating facility to promote and support climate research in Austria with particular focus on strengthening the climate research landscape in Austria, facilitating the education of a new generation of researchers and supporting knowledge transfer, and advising politics and society. Besides core scientific parts - on meteorology and impact of climate change e.g. on insects, forestry or heat islands in cities - the climate days 2013 also dealt with issues from social scientific realms, such as "Economy and politics" or "Policy measures". You may find the [programme of the conference and a documentation online here](#). At present the CCCA is developing a strategic "Science Plan", aiming to instigate nationally and internationally significant and practically relevant research in four main areas:

- Physical scientific foundations of climate research
- Societal drivers and social dimensions of climate change
- Impact, adaptation and vulnerability
- Mitigation and societal transformation

Climate and energy are two of the most important challenges facing developments in the 21st century. What is required, is better foresight and comprehension of ongoing processes, and to shape social change including the necessity of specific social innovation. The ZSI contributes to the Science Plan, relying on own experiences, competencies and networks from a growing number of EU projects working on respective topics. Among these projects are [Covenant CapaCITY](#), [SOCIENTIZE](#), and some more to come which are currently in the process of negotiation with the European Commission to be launched later this year or early 2014.

**Josef Hochgerner, Scientific Director, ZSI**

*The complete article is also available (English/German) on [www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at)*

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### **ZSI\_Voices**

**Topics like climate change as well as innovative forms of research such as citizen science projects for sustainable solutions have become change making and leading the way for our society...**

The growing importance of research in the domain of climate change is given and attested

through common databases, the definition of common research needs in relevant policy areas. These are fields where international research cooperation can contribute practically and by developing a roadmap of future joint STI activities. An example: in 2012 a workshop of the FP7 project [IncoNet EECA](#) was organised that focused on the take up of international climate change strategic documents and conventions in countries' policies and operational instruments with STI relevance. "Climate Change" is regularly reflected in strategic documents linked e.g. to environment policy, energy policy and related fields in the region. An established [database](#) gives evidence on the recent developments for some world regions.

Still, dedicated climate change strategies on a horizontal level and covering the whole spectrum of policy areas could not be observed, although general guiding documents and e.g. presidential decrees give evidence of the importance of the topic for a number of policy areas. Links to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC); the [Kyoto Protocol](#) (KP), where not all countries are included in Annex B; the [Global Environment Facility](#) (GEF); the cooperation with the Intergovernmental [Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) exist in Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries. The support of the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) and the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UNEP) was important for policy take up. These efforts of institutions and key players cannot be observed yet in the practical take up for STI in funding programmes, which could be another important step.

**Martin Felix Gadjusek, project manager at ZSI's unit Research Policy & Development (F&E)**

[www.inco-eeca.net](http://www.inco-eeca.net)

[www.global-issues-rtd.info](http://www.global-issues-rtd.info)

*What you hear, you forget. What you see, you remember. And what you do, you understand.*

Adhering to this slogan a growing movement which can help to raise public awareness and understanding for climate change is called "citizen science". Citizen science is an innovative concept to involve the general public in scientific processes. It assumes that the collaboration between scientists and volunteers from the broader public in experiments helps science to depart from its "ivory tower" and increases the awareness and understanding of fundamental research topics amongst citizens. In citizen science, people from all walks of life use basic scientific protocols and tools to gather and analyse data and bring in their own ideas and solutions.

Citizen science centers benefit from the contributions of volunteers to investigate local indicators of climate change, individuals are asked to contribute their observations on changing natural events, and networks of volunteer scientists help researchers with the alternative collection of e.g. weather data. In the Temperature Map App from the [SOCIENTIZE](#) project, volunteers from different European communities will contribute temperature data from inside and outside their houses and thus improve energy models used for green and efficient urban planning. The data collected by volunteers will feed several interactive real-time maps, which are presented to the broader public via artistic media installations on public places to raise awareness not only amongst volunteer participants, and to disseminate research results even further. More on citizen science in

general and specific experiments, open for volunteer contributors, can be found on the web platform of the project of SOCIENTIZE.

**Teresa Holocher-Ertl, project manager at ZSI's unit Technology & Knowledge (T&W)**

[www.socientize.eu](http://www.socientize.eu)

In GLOBAL excursion we started recently with our series of "Meet the scientist" online sessions and already held two successful sessions, one with Doñana Natural Park in Spain and the other one with the Nanoscience Lab of Cambridge University. The aim was to connect teachers and their students live with scientists. The scientists would show part of their work and teachers and students could interact with them by asking questions. The next session will be held on the 24th of May at the BIFI data center in Spain, which hosts more than 6.000 computing cores running applications from many fields like drug discovery or CERN CMS, presenting its monitoring tools in a nutshell. Also they will present a biotechnology laboratory working with human stem cells. Scientific and technological context will be provided, introducing the challenges facing today in this multidisciplinary center – a reference in e-science in Europe. You find more information on all these sessions on our [facebook site](#).

**Barbara Kieslinger, project manager at ZSI's unit Technology & Knowledge (T&W)**

[www.globalexursion-project.eu](http://www.globalexursion-project.eu)

[www.facebook.com/VirtualScienceHub](http://www.facebook.com/VirtualScienceHub)

*The complete article (English) is also available on [www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at)*

### **ZSI\_Short News & what the Media say about ZSI**

**EUWIN – the European Workplace Innovation Network:** As part of the European Commission's Enterprise & Industry Mission for Growth strategy, a Europe-wide learning network for workplace innovation has been launched with the specific objective of improving the performance of organisations and the quality of jobs on a truly sustainable basis. ZSI is responsible for promoting the network in Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, and Slovenia. Register your interest [here](#) or via [ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/workplace-innovation/activities/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/workplace-innovation/activities/index_en.htm) +++

**Social Innovation in Ageing – the European Award:** The King Baudouin Foundation in association with La Caixa Foundation and UniCredit Foundation launched an award for social innovations in the active and healthy ageing field. The three winners will be awarded with EUR 10.000, 5.000, and 3.000. ZSI supported the funders in developing the award and will coordinate the analysis and assessment of applications. Get more information and **apply until the 15th of July here:**

[www.changemakers.com/innovationinageing](http://www.changemakers.com/innovationinageing) +++

**Sozialmarie Award 2013:** The project ranked first by the jury comes from Hungary, a Czech initiative occupies second place, and the third place went to a Croatian project. ZSI was again part of the jury. Please find a short Video and more details on the award at

website of the winning project. [www.sozialmarie.org](http://www.sozialmarie.org) +++

**Covenant capaCITY:** This project managed by ZSI started recently: There is an urgent need to develop many more Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) across Europe, in support of reaching national and European greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets – 20% by 2020 and achieving other EU priorities. [www.covenant-capacity.eu/eu/home](http://www.covenant-capacity.eu/eu/home) or [www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at)+++

**Soil Atlas of Africa:** At the African Union and European Union Commission College meeting in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, on the 25 and 26 th of April 2013 the Atlas was introduced by EU Commissioner Hedegaard (Climate Action) on behalf of the European Commission President José Manuel Barroso. For further informations please visit: [eusoiils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/library/maps/africa\\_atlas/index.html](http://eusoiils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/library/maps/africa_atlas/index.html) +++

**Radio Ö1, ORF Science:** Social Innovation and ZSI was featured in the context of the current special on open innovation in the end of April. Further contributions by ZSI can be expected. For audiocasts please visit [oe1.orf.at/programm/335096](http://oe1.orf.at/programm/335096) and [oe1.orf.at/innovation](http://oe1.orf.at/innovation) +++

**Expert blogging on MASI:** The worldwide first Master of Arts in Social Innovation, a collaboration of Danube University of Krems and ZSI, started successfully in the final days of April 2013 in Krems. Peter Baumgartner published a [memo on his blog](#). +++

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## **ZSI\_Events**

### **GLOBAL excursion: *Meet the scientist* online sessions in May**

The next session will be held on the 24th of May at the BIFI data center in Spain, which hosts more than 6.000 computing cores running applications from many fields like drug discovery or CERN CMS, presenting its monitoring tools in a nutshell. Also they will present a biotechnology laboratory working with human stem cells. Scientific and technological context will be provided, introducing the challenges facing today in this multidisciplinary center.

More information on all these sessions are available on the facebook site:

[www.facebook.com/VirtualScienceHub](http://www.facebook.com/VirtualScienceHub)

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### **RTDI evaluation training in Podgorica, Montenegro**

The EVAL-INNO project organises the third RTDI evaluation training course on 17th to 21st of June 2013 in Podgorica, Montenegro. The training will gather participants from Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo and will be carried out by experienced RTDI evaluation trainers from six countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro and Serbia). The training will introduce the participants to the theory and practice of the research and science-related evaluation of organisations, policies, programmes and institutions.

**Deadline for applications:** 31 May 2013. Applicants will be notified of the nomination

process at the beginning of June 2013.

Further details and registration can be accessed on [www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at)

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**fteval conference „New Horizons / New Challenges: evaluation of STI policies, instruments and organisations”: Grants for young researchers!**

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2013 the international evaluation conference „New Horizons / New Challenges: evaluation of STI policies, instruments and organisations” is organised in Vienna. It provides an open forum for evaluators, scientists, research managers, authorities and STI policy makers to debate challenging developments in STI policy and their effects on evaluation theory and practice.

Eminent experts already agreed to engage at the conference’s sessions and dedicated panels, such as Irwin Feller (em. Penn State University), Stefan Kuhlmann (University Twente), Gretchen Jordan (Innovation LLC), Christina Schuh (Humboldt Foundation), Göran Marklund (Vinnova), Jordi Molas Gallart (CSIC – Spanish National Research Council), Sybille Hinze (ifq-Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance), Jakob Edler (University of Manchester), Philippe Laredo (L’IFRIS) and many more!

In order to increase the chances of young researchers to participate at this conference, a grant provided by FWF, the Austrian Science Fund, to this conference will be used to support the participation of young researchers. Young researchers (up to 35 years), whose extended abstracts or poster presentations will be selected by the Scientific Committee, can send an email to the registration manager ([salhofer@fteval.at](mailto:salhofer@fteval.at)) requesting for a grant to cover part of their travel and registration costs. Depending on the number of requests the organisers intend to waive the registration fee and to subsidise the accommodation costs.

Registration and further details are available on the website [sticon2013.fteval.at](http://sticon2013.fteval.at)

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***Previews & Reviews***

**Kick-off of ALCUENET: EU-Latin America & Caribbean cooperation is taken to the next level**

The new European Union-Latin America & Caribbean (EU-LAC) INCO-NET project was started with an official Kick-off meeting in Brussels on 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of April. ZSI is one of the 19 partner institutions of this bi-regional cooperation project, which aims at supporting the international science and technology cooperation of the EU with major regions of the world. Just the days before the meeting, Brussels was hosting this year’s “EU-LAC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Science and Technology”. In previous meetings the SOM has agreed on a ‘Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI)’, which is currently the most important policy document with regard to Science and Technology (S&T) collaboration between EU and LAC.

The [ALCUENET](#) project – which stands for Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Network on Research and Innovation – is an operational instrument for the implementation of the JIRI and for the scaling-up of the long standing EU – LAC dialogue on S&T. In concrete, the project will address three main societal challenges - high quality affordable food, energy and climate change - through the implementation of actions in four major themes like renewable energy, ICT, bioeconomy and biodiversity.

*The complete article (English) is also available on [www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at)*

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### **ZSI-Publication**

#### **Employment & social inclusion partnerships in Europe, by Leda Stott & Anette Scoppetta**

In Europe, the “partnership principle” is promoted as a policy instrument for improving employment and social inclusion and supported by Structural Funds such as the European Social Fund (ESF). Within this context partnership broker organisations play a vital role. However, while much is known about knowledge transfer, about different partnership approaches and activities, far less is known about these intermediary mechanisms and the success factors that underpin their work. The article provides a short review of the work undertaken by partnership broker organisations in supporting partnerships for employment and social inclusion in Europe. The authors identify four distinct broker typologies, suggesting how brokers add value to collaborative activities and enhance social capital by promoting deeper cross-sector understanding. They propose deeper investigation and exchanges on brokering experiences in Europe to recognise the broker role and to ensure that European employment partnerships are made more robust.

*The complete article (English) is also available in the Journal 'Betwixt and Between' on the platform of Partnership Brokers Association: [www.partnershipbrokers.org](http://www.partnershipbrokers.org)*

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#### **Research, Technology, and Innovation Evaluation in Austria, by Klaus Schuch**

In a recent comparative report (*Tsipouri and Sidiropolous, 2013*), Austria has been recommended as a role model to newcomers who are trying to establish a research, technology, and innovation (RTI) evaluation culture in a reasonable time frame. Unlike the Anglo-Saxon or Scandinavian countries, whose tradition in evaluation goes back several decades, Austria succeeded in leapfrogging and has become one of the leading European countries in RTI evaluation in only a few years.

*The complete article (English) is available on the website of the journal 'bridges' published by the Office of Science & Technology (OST) at the Embassy of Austria in Washington, DC, United States of America: [www.ostina.org](http://www.ostina.org)*

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## **Social Innovations and the Advancement of the General Concept of Innovation, by Josef Hochgerner**

In: [Carmen Ruiz Viñals and Carmen Parra Rodriguez, eds., 2013, Social Innovation: New Forms of Organisation in Knowledge-Based Societies; Oxford: Routledge](#)

ISBN: 978-0-415-64014-5

Starting from a general assessment of the relevance of innovations in social change, the core feature of this article is to introduce the specific concept of social innovation. Accompanied by the current economic crises and the broad acknowledgement of the so-called 'Grand Challenges', the concept of innovations devoted to the provision of social value has recently become a hot topic in politics, science and a relatively broad public. Social innovations are new practices for resolving societal challenges, adopted and utilized by the social groups concerned. The creation and implementation of social innovations require processes with a number of stages and cyclical learning. The readiness to change is usually neither a property inherent in social milieus, social systems and cultures in business and public administrations, nor in society as a whole. Knowledge, attitudes and opinions are not single levers for modifying behaviour. The key concern here is to comprehend knowledge as capacity for social action, and thus to focus research and social practices on how to transform the knowledge available into action.

*The complete article (English) is also available on [www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at)*

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### ***Video\_special***

#### **Social Design = Social Innovation**

This roundtable – cutting the edge – took place in April 2013 and was hosted by the University of Applied Arts in Vienna in cooperation with ZSI. The rector of *die Angewandte* Gerald Bast moderated this interdisciplinary talk between Univ. Prof. Mag. Anton Falkeis, head of the new M.A. programme *Social Design - Arts as Urban Innovation*, and Univ. Prof. Dr. Josef Hochgerner, scientific director of ZSI and head of the new *Master of Arts in Social Innovation*. Die Angewandte and ZSI also run a cooperation in the context of the M.A. programme Social Design.

*Watch Video (available in German) on [Vimeo](https://vimeo.com) or [www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at)*

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