

*Facilitating open-minded, informed learning,  
engagement and dialogue across social groups  
through interactive science communication*

## Knowledge°rooms and impulse°lab

Since 2013, the Association ScienceCenter-Network has been testing a highly innovative format for inclusive science communication: The „**knowledge°rooms**“ are pop-up science centers installed temporarily in urban disadvantaged areas. These freely accessible spaces foster encounters between very different communities by using accessible science as a common language that is an important part of our culture and by using playful learning to spark interest in education, which is essential for inclusion. Eight knowledge°rooms have been set up for 2-3 months each in the last years, staffed by young communicators. Our latest pop-up science center put an emphasis on reaching out to refugees and migrant communities. The project has been awarded with the SozialMarie prize for social inclusion.



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For 2018 onwards, we plan to scale up and expand the target group to enable transfer:

We plan to set up a completely new experimental venue in Vienna, which shall serve as an **impulse laboratory and transfer center for interactive, hands-on learning**.

The ambitious goal is to transform education by integrating the knowledge derived from innovative educators inside the school system with that of informal settings (like the knowledge°room) and with new insights from learning and didactics research.

The physical venue of ca. 500m<sup>2</sup> would comprise a permanent knowledge°room for the general public, a didactics workshop for teachers as well as a research unit and a transfer center to spread reflective and evidence-based practice also to museums, universities, research organisations and companies who are eager to be active in the communication of sciences, humanities and technology.

Additionally, **decentral pop-up knowledge°rooms** shall be upscaled and run in ca. 4 parallel locations in underserved districts of Vienna.

The indicative budget for 5 years operation (including 20 pop-up knowledge°rooms) preceded by a 1 year set-up phase is 3,3 Mio €.

A pop-up event on December 1, 2017 gave a vivid and concrete insight into the future impulse°lab for over 100 experts and stakeholders from formal an informal science education, research, economy and civil society in Austria. The programme included inputs, hands-on activities, discussions and networking sessions, giving the opportunity to jointly experience and discuss the potential and perspectives of this new landmark project.



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