



Sustainability Challenge 2018 © Hannah Frost

Factsheet

# Research cooperation

## Anchored in the biographies of the students

Facts & Figures



**3**

international research partners

**2x**

participations in the Sustainability Challenge

**5**

Viennese universities  
Focus next generation researchers

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### Project partners:

- University of St. Gallen
- Fraunhofer Institute
- EIP-SCC
- Sustainability Challenge
- ICT Challenge

For more details see  
[www.smartertogether.at](http://www.smartertogether.at)

## Project context

Among the strategic tasks of all projects implemented within the framework of the EU's Horizon 2020 programme are cooperation between and with scientific institutions and scientific project monitoring. Of particular relevance is monitoring and data-based evaluation of the effectiveness of the projects. Smarter Together Vienna worked intensively with the University of St. Gallen (involved in, among other things, the development within the project of a business model for e-car sharing), the Fraunhofer Institute and the AIT (responsible for monitoring and evaluation) as research cooperation partners. It was also involved in the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC).

Research cooperation with prestigious international research institutions is often aimed at producing results agreed in advance within the framework of formalised project cooperation. These institutions are also responsible for providing contributions to scientific publications.

Smarter Together Vienna deepened this basic idea by supporting the study projects of numerous Viennese and international students within the framework of academic courses as well

as individual Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral theses.

## Smarter Together measures

- intensive cooperation with and support for international research partners (AIT, Fraunhofer, University of St. Gallen)
- participation in two editions of the Sustainability Challenge (2017/18, 2018/19), which is held annually by the University of Vienna, the Vienna University of Technology (TU), the Vienna University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) and the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) as a 1-year university course
- supporting the 2019/20 Sustainability Challenge students at Siemens Mobility
- numerous district walks for Viennese and international students
- personal supervision of the bachelor's, master's and doctoral theses of Austrian and international students
- participation in international research conferences (e.g. at the Vienna University of Applied Sciences)
- contributions to research into housing by the City of Vienna.



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## Boosting the process

Research collaboration with young students offers an opportunity to transfer knowledge, experience of processes and values to future decision-makers. It also provides a valuable opportunity for reflection and for anchoring resp. disseminating results among a broader scientific community. By supporting young students, Smarter Together ensures that its themes and approaches are reflected in their research.

## Next generation researchers

Smarter Together has cooperated with the organisers of the Sustainability Challenge on two occasions. In 2017/18, the students conducted a study on greening of façades in connection with the school extension at Enkplatz. The results were taken up and further utilised by the responsible municipal department (the City of Vienna Department for Environmental Protection). In 2018/19, Sustainability Challenge students participated in the elaboration of a final business model for the e-car sharing system in the BWSG Hauffgasse complex.

In 2019/20, Siemens Mobility invited Sustainability Challenge students to think about energy solutions for the company based on the positive experiences from Smarter Together. The result was a 500-kWp PV system, which was installed in 2020.

Christian Allmer's thesis in the interdisciplinary '4Cities' master's programme deals with ULLs. In this two-year programme, which brings together six European universities in four countries, students conduct research in Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Université Libre de Bruxelles), Vienna (University of Vienna), Copenhagen (Københavns Universitet) and Madrid (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid). 4Cities is an Erasmus Mundus programme supported by the EU.

## Kids and pupils in Focus

International interest was aroused by the multiple activities that specifically promoted the involvement of children and school pupils. The contents were



included in the dissertation of Dana Ghafoor-Zadeh, a PhD student at the University of Education, Freiburg, who is writing her dissertation on the topic of 'Children and Smart Cities'.

## Lessons LearnedC

Cooperation with and support for students represents a form of participation and also contributes to anchoring the project in the scientific community and enhancing its image.

The promotion of individual research projects by students helps to ensure that topics relevant to the project will feature prominently in those students' research careers after they have graduated.

The numerous bachelor's, master's and doctoral theses supervised within the framework of Smarter Together shed light on additional aspects relevant to the project from a scientific perspective and often raise new research questions on issues like smart cities and children, governance, mobility, processes, ULL etc., which would not otherwise have arisen.

## Replication

Various Smarter Together research topics have already been taken up in different courses. On account of its positive experiences, Siemens Mobility continued its cooperation with the Sustainability Challenge.

## Holistic thinking about research cooperation

- Cooperation between technologically demanding EU projects and internationally active research institutions is indispensable for the fulfilment of certain project goals. However, it also offers these institutions the opportunity to integrate valuable experience into their programmes and projects.
- This also makes the concerns and innovations of the City of Vienna more visible internationally.
- Support for students is aimed at future generations who, as researchers or professionally qualified employees of a wide variety of institutions, many of them local, will bring the knowledge they have acquired through this process and the values and visions associated with it into their work in a sustainable way. This form of cooperation with its focus on research processes thus contributes significantly to the sustainability of the results.