



# **Citizen Social Science**

## **The example of participatory research with young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)**

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Webinar “The Role of Universities in Fostering High Quality Citizen Science”, 24/09/2020



# Co-designing Citizen Social Science for Collective Action (CoAct)

- funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme
- proposing a new understanding of Citizen Social Science as participatory research co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups sharing a social concern, in which they become co-researchers in processes commonly dominated by academic researchers
- aims to bring together and further develop methods to give citizen groups an equal 'seat at the table' through active participation in research, from the design to the interpretation of the results and their transformation into concrete actions



# What is CoAct?

As CoAct, we propose a new approach to face social global concerns related to mental health care, youth employment, environmental justice and gender equality by engaging citizens as co-researchers. Our approach represents a new understanding of the underexplored field of Citizen Social Science (CSS), understood here as participatory research co-designed and directly driven by citizen groups sharing a social concern.

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# Case Study Vienna: Youth Employment

- In 2016 a new law was implemented in Austria called „education until 18“ which makes education obligatory for all young people under 18. Implementing this law lead to an increase of initiatives and measures for young people who dropped out of school or vocational training. Nevertheless a certain amount of young people even drops our of these more easily accessible initiatives.
- In our case study we want to do research together with young people in such an initiative about their ideas and perceptions about education and employment.



## „My challenge“

- We plan to work with two groups of 10-15 young people (each) who are between 15-20 years old.
- The overall topic is “my challenge”.
- The young people will form small groups and find their own research question, decide on the suitable method(s) of gathering data, collect the data themselves and join the social scientists in analyzing the data. Furthermore, they will participate in the decision on the type of dissemination of the findings.
- The young co-researchers are actively involved in all steps of the research process, the social scientists on the other hand primarily help and coach the process with their knowledge about empirical social research.



# Knowledge Coalition

- Different stakeholders on all levels of „education until 18“ are involved in the knowledge coalition, are interested in the outcomes of this study and are willing to co-operate with the young co-researchers, e.g. by being interviewed by them.
  - Individual persons, e.g. social workers, public officials, politicians
  - Institutions, e.g. Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection; City of Vienna; Public Employment Service; several institutions providing training for young people

# Previous Publications and Presentations



## 29. Selbstinterview und Selbstdarstellung im Internet von Jugendlichen, die an einem Forschungsprozess teilgenommen haben

von Ozan Blank (und Karin Schneider)

### Material

- Du brauchst mal dich selbst, sonst geht's nicht.
- Einen Blog im Netz oder jemanden, der beim Internet Zugang hilft, Handy oder Laptop
- Kamera (z. B. am Handy oder noch besser – gleich am Laptop selbst) und Stativ

## Gemeinsames Forschen in der „Sprachengruppe“

Bathuan Degirmenci, Arlind Loshaj, Jasmin Nazaire, Karin Schneider und Nicoletta Tyka

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In der Forschungsgruppe „Die Sprachen uns „Sprachengruppe“ genannt) wollten wir – Arli – herausfinden, welche Sprachen in der Schule hatten Arlind und Bathuan schon recht bald zu im Projekt *Grenzgänge*: Obwohl wir uns alle unterschiedlichsten Sprachen in der Schule g Interesse daran, welche Sprachen außer Deuts werden, das waren. In der Forschungsgruppe der Schule nur Deutsch sprechen gelernt hatte. mindestens eine weitere Sprache, die jedoch

Eines unserer Ergebnisse ist auf dem Plak zeigt, welche Personen interviewt wurden, we Sprache wahrnehmen (ist sie leicht oder schw in dieser Sprache zählen?). Das Plakat gibt wei schichten hinter der Kenntnis der jeweiligen S Sprachengruppe, die während des Prozesses u

