



# Sparkling Science > Science linking with School School linking with Science

## Research Project

01.09.2009 – 31.12.2011

## Cross-Cultural Competence

Promotion of cross-cultural competence  
in high schools providing vocational  
education in Austria

### LEADING INSTITUTION

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### SCHOOL INVOLVED

HAK/HAS Linz-Auhof, Upper Austria



## Basic Information about Sparkling Science

Sparkling Science is a research program of the Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF) which started in 2007 and adopts an unconventional way in the promotion of young scientists that is unique in Europe.

The specific characteristic of the program: so far 168\* projects (94 of them have already been completed) scientists work side by side with young people in current scientific research projects: Sparkling Science supports big research projects and supported from 2007 until 2010 also smaller school research projects.

In the 114 big research projects (42 have already been completed) the young colleagues take an active part and work independently on parts of the research projects. As junior colleagues they introduce important suggestions into the research approach. They collaborate in the conception and conducting of investigations, conduct polls, collect data, interpret these together with the researchers and present the results at schools, universities and even at scientific conferences.

In a second initiative within the Sparkling Science program the BMWF awarded grants to smaller projects that were submitted and conducted not by the involved research institutions, but by the schools, who designed and lead the projects themselves. In these projects, too, schoolchildren worked closely together with researchers, supporting state-of-the-art research activities and contributing to the results.

Both sides of the program is/were open to a broad thematic spectrum. Research is carried out on all sorts of different topics: from mechatronics and molecular biology to migration research, from acoustics and biometrics to literature research.

\* Status quo: January 2012



## One Example out of 168

### Cross-Cultural Competence

The project aims at the development of an innovative and didactic model how to teach cross-cultural competence based on former research of Jabornegg Altenfels (Eds. 2007) and Jabornegg Altenfels et al. (2009), Boitllehner and Hofstadler (2005, 2007) and on an analysis concerning stress and problem fields in Austrian BHS (high schools providing vocational education). This model will follow a new didactic and innovative approach to promote cross-cultural competence within the following target group:

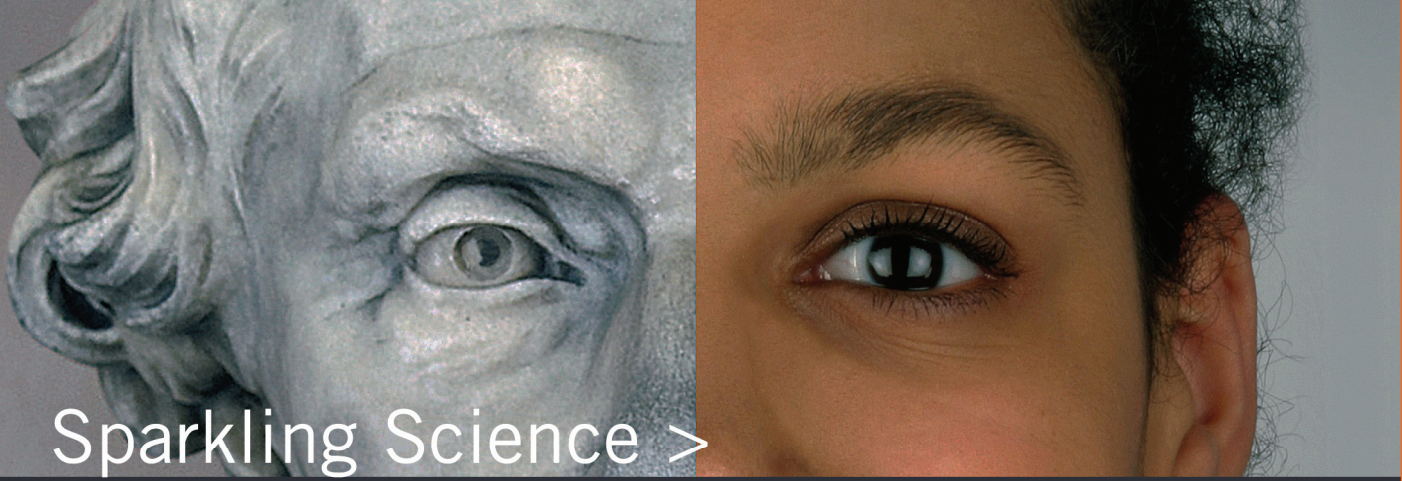
- BHS-students without migration background who have regular contact with students with migration background
- BHS-students with migration background who have regular contact with students without migration background
- BHS-teachers who have contact to both target groups

At the end of the project, the model and the findings will be available for all Austrian BHS. A special innovative focus is on the cooperation between the relevant students and the scientists, moreover on the immediate implementation into scholarly practices. Compared with other projects in this field, there is a big difference in the working process: The emphasis is on a constant cooperation and exchange between the scientists and the relevant students in each phase of the research project. Those who have an immediate need for the promotion of cross-cultural competence are members of the development team and benefit from the project findings.

### Further Information

<http://interkulturellekompetenz.jimdo.com/>





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[www.bmwf.gv.at](http://www.bmwf.gv.at)  
[www.sparklingscience.at](http://www.sparklingscience.at)

BMWF<sup>a</sup>

Austrian Federal Ministry of Science  
and Research