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CITIZENSCIENCE

Take part  
in research

[www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at](http://www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at)

# CITIZENSCIENCE IN AUSTRIA

More and more citizens measure, observe, photograph and send data to researchers to support them in their daily work. Some of them even initiate research projects of their own. This form of science, where projects are carried out in collaboration with interested citizens, is called citizen science.



To anchor citizen science more firmly in Austria the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) established the OeAD Center for Citizen Science in 2015. This centre places special emphasis on cooperation between science and schools. As an information and service centre for researchers and citizens the centre provides information, advice, financial support and networking on citizen science and coordinates a number of initiatives.

For example, the funding programme [Sparkling Science 2.0](#) breaks down barriers between schools, science and society in multi-year citizen science projects.



The research competition [Citizen Science Award](#) supports Austrian research projects and motivates interested parties to take part. A [network of contact persons](#) at research institutions contributes to an improved exchange of Austrian actors and to the institutional anchoring of citizen science.



# WE PROMOTE, COORDINATE, INFORM AND CONNECT

## **Sparkling Science 2.0 – Funding of new citizen science projects**

The research funding programme “Sparkling Science 2.0”, which the OeAD coordinates on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), supports innovative Austrian citizen science projects. The aim is to actively involve pupils of all school levels as well as the civil society in the research process. More information is available at [www.sparklingscience.at](http://www.sparklingscience.at)

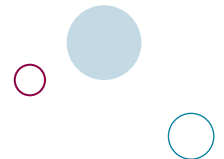


## **Network of Citizen Science and Young Science contact persons**

The OeAD coordinates a network of Citizen Science and Young Science contact points with representatives of numerous Austrian higher education and research institutions. These act as internal and external interfaces for citizen science and Young Science at their institutions. Among other things, they are responsible for passing on information and contacts on the subject of citizen science and Young Science and can be contacted by researchers as well as by interested citizens. All contact details are available on the OeAD Center for Citizen Science’s website.

## **Lectures as an introduction to citizen science**

Despite the growing popularity of citizen science many researchers are not yet familiar with the topic and the numerous possibilities and challenges of the citizen science approach. Therefore the OeAD offers Austrian scientific institutions and their researchers free introductory lectures on various aspects of citizen science.



# CITIZENSCIENCE AWARD

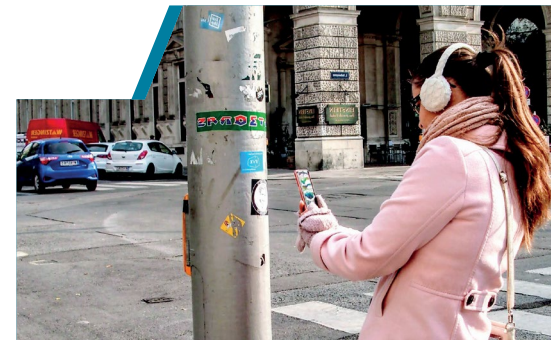
## A competition for children, young people and adults

- Every year school classes and individuals are invited to take part in various research projects from 1 April to the end of the school year.
- The type of participation – e.g. via app, questionnaire, e-mail – is just as varied as the topics and questions of the respective projects that invite people to take part in research. Which bumblebee species are common in Austria? What possibilities do you have to participate in politics? How is language used in Austria? These are just a few of the questions that have been jointly researched in recent years.
- The most committed citizen scientists can look forward to cash and non-cash prizes, which will be awarded at a festive event in the autumn. During the day lectures, guided tours and interactive hands-on stations invite children, young people and adults to immerse themselves in scientific topics and get to know researchers personally. The highlight of the day is the Citizen Science Award ceremony that follows.



## Call for researchers: Become part of the competition with a citizen science project!

- To become part of the Citizen Science Award researchers can apply with their citizen science projects each autumn for the competition in the following year.



**Literature tip: Research with schools. A guide for joint citizen science projects**

In the brochure “Citizen Science – Research with Schools. Basics, recommendations & practical tips for joint projects” researchers and teachers will find help for collaboration between science and schools. It is based on the many years of experience of the members of the working group “Citizen Science at/with Schools”, which is coordinated by the OeAD. The working group is part of the Citizen Science Network Austria.



[www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at](http://www.zentrumfuercitizenscience.at)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | **Editor & Publisher:** OeAD-GmbH | Ebendorferstraße 7 | 1010 Wien | Headquarters: Vienna FN 320219 k | Commercial Court Vienna | ATU 64808925 | **Managing Director:** Jakob Calice, PhD | **Editor:** Petra Siegele | T +43 1 53408-0, citizenscience@oead.at | **Graphic Design:** Birgit Preiner | **Photos:** shutterstock: Maartje van Caspel (Cover), Production Perig (p. 2), Halfpoint (p. 4); Barbara Heinisch (p. 4); Project [www.plus.ac.at/Nan-O-Style](http://www.plus.ac.at/Nan-O-Style), Walter Skokanitsch (p. 5) | **Printed by:** Print Alliance HAV Produktions GmbH, Bad Vöslau | **Vienna, June 2022**