

Press Release

Vienna, 23 September 2020

PRESENTATION OF THE VIRTUAL COVID POP UP HUB

What we can learn from the COVID crisis and how we can draw innovation ideas for the future from it

Vienna. The Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) is launching the COVID Pop Up Hub, which aims to take up the current challenges posed by the pandemic and use them for systemic change in order to exploit potentials for future innovations.

Until January 2021, the Hub will develop proposals for the future in a virtual, open, and participatory format. Citizens, researchers, business representatives and experts will discuss and reflect on professional, organisational, sectoral, and scientific experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hub is open to all citizens and innovation communities in Austria and participation is completely free of charge. It serves as an open exchange and should help all participants to gain orientation, better understanding and ideas for the future. The website can be found via this link: <http://covid-popuphub.at>.

The discussions will take place along 4 thematic clusters

Digital Health, Distancing, Economic Buffers and State Intervention. Each thematic cluster will have its own organising team and will use different methodological formats, such as live interviews with experts or representatives of selected academic research, focus groups, workshops, webinars, etc. The team consists of the partners nexyo, Red Swan, Data Intelligence Offensive (DIO), cbased and the Center for Technology Experience of the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology.

AIT dedicates itself to the area of Distancing

The "Distancing" theme cluster will be led by Manfred Tscheligi, Head of Center for Technology Experience at the AIT, and will address the following questions, among others: What impact will the crisis have on our future behaviour? How can "distancing" be implemented without distancing ourselves and what new experiences are emerging? Siegfried Meryn, Lisa Höllbacher and Andreas Huber from nexyo are responsible for the area of "digital health". How can concepts of "economic buffers" be incorporated into future-proof business concepts and what will these business models of the future look like? These and similar questions will be discussed under the leadership of Ursula Eysin, Managing Director of Red Swan. Under the direction of Hannes Leo from cbased, the aspects of the fourth topic cluster "state intervention" will be dealt with.

All programme items can be followed online, and each topic cluster will also offer the opportunity to contribute and shape ideas, opinions and experiences in an open ideation tool. Suggestions for virtual sessions that go beyond this can be submitted at lh@nexyo.ag. Discussions on the platform have already begun. State interventions with regard to problems that have made the COVID crisis

bigger or more visible, such as climate change, income and wealth inequalities or digital surveillance, will be discussed here: <https://www.discuto.io/de/consultation/35761>

On 24 September 2020, 16:00-18:00, the joint virtual kick-off will take place and is open to all interested parties. The team will introduce themselves, the thematic clusters, and the opportunities to participate. Registration via <https://popuphub.eventbrite.co.uk>.

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