

School workshop program „Smart City of the Future“



In Innsbruck, three elementary schools (Siegmaier, Angergasse and Neu-Arzt) were refurbished in the framework of SINFONIA. Over a period of two years (2015 – 2017), schools were being renovated to improve their energy efficiency. To involve the actual users of the school buildings we developed and implemented the *School Workshop Program: Smart Cities* into the school's curriculum.

The workshop program consisted of a kick-off event, one obligatory basic module and three elective modules on the topics of energy, mobility and aspects of the refurbishment of the school building. Module 1 was organised by local members of the SINFONIA consortium. It aimed at the presentation of SINFONIA to all pupils and teachers taking part in the workshop program and to raise awareness for the use of renewable energy and the refurbishment activities. The additional three modules were held by "external" partners like Energy Tyrol and Climate Alliance Tyrol, that have experience in the exchange of knowledge of relevant topics to the target group.

Applied methods and contents of the workshop were adapted to the age of the children.

A coordination unit consisting of local project partners guaranteed the consistency of the program sequences.

vision

Students of refurbished schools in Innsbruck should feel part of SINFONIA and the renovation activities of their school building.

addressed stakeholder groups

- ▶ schools
- ▶ general public

outreach

More than 100 students participated in the workshops.

Via the students as multipliers members of their families also came in contact with SINFONIA.

Résumé

Challenges

- ▶ Prerequisite for the transfer of knowledge to the pupils is the establishment of a good contact with the teachers and the headmasters of the schools. Since the curricula of the schools are relatively tight and offers of extracurricular activities by different institutions are manifold, some efforts have to be done to persuade the schools of participating in the workshop modules.
- ▶ It is challenging to prepare complex topics in the context of smart cities in an age-based way. The age of pupils in the SINFONIA schools range between six and ten years. Accordingly, topics are processed in a playful and easy intuitive way.
- ▶ The financial situation of pupils has to be considered. All involvement activities with schools described above were offered for free. Costs were covered by the consortium partners or by the external institutions involved. It is unlikely that costs for non-financed events can be covered by schools or pupils.

„The school workshop program is a convincing instrument for the involvement of students and teachers in a smart city project that includes the refurbishments of school buildings. The pupils gain a playful access to the different contents of the city, respectively the school, of the future. Subsequently, a multiplier effect is expected when there is knowledge exchange between teachers, pupils and their families, friends or colleagues.“

Kathrin Schwab,
University of Innsbruck



at the kick-off event

Recommendations

- ▶ Establish a good contact with the teachers and the headmasters of the schools!
- ▶ Promote the program as early as possible! To convince schools to participate, the workshop program has to follow a clear structure and a reasonable embedding in the school curricula.
- ▶ Involve external educational partners! It is beneficial for the involvement of schools to base the workshop program on an existing range of offers to guarantee that available resources are used.
- ▶ Get more information [here](#) !

„The kick-off workshop was a really welcome diversion to the daily routine in the office.“

Barbara Dickbauer,
Standortagentur

