Job posting

Type of position
- scientific
- administrative

Target group
- graduates
- post docs
- other

Title
Transacademic Interface Manager

Institution
University of Graz. The University of Graz Field of Excellence (FoE) “Climate Change Graz” offers a highly attractive research and teaching environment, with the involvement of world-leading faculty across relevant disciplines from its schools of social sciences and economics, natural sciences, environmental sciences, and the humanities alongside different interdisciplinary research groups. Research work of the Field of Excellence on sustainable societal solutions requires the involvement of experts and stakeholders from all areas of society. We seek a professional development of this interface.

Position
As a ‘boundary manager’ the TIM will strive to establish trustful long-term relationships, extending beyond the duration of single projects, with partners from the economic, political and cultural sector (professional level) in order to build a community of practice. She/he will be expected to actively promote such relationships and networks (initializing and maintaining a functional and continuous process of collaboration).
Part of this will also be the work as a ‘facilitator’ organizing and moderating meetings and workshops with stakeholders. This will also extend to taking part in the co-production of knowledge, by supporting joint research projects, especially with companies, public institutions and social groups.
As a ‘project manager’ the TIM will support not only the development (preparing the project by identifying and recruiting participants as well as orienting and framing the research by generating an overall stakeholder engagement strategy) and implementation of transdisciplinary research projects (developing the research questions and methodological approaches as a common endeavor between science and society or companies, observe and learn about implementation, plan engagement events, translate research results into an inclusive vocabulary and help to valorize project results).
She/he will also consistently follow up with stakeholders to evaluate outcomes and their actual use, and prepare the ground for future collaboration.
As an ‘expert on transdisciplinary research’ the TIM could facilitate discussions on this hot topic in the Field of Excellence as well as provide lessons learned from the development and implantation of transdisciplinary projects. The engagement in transdisciplinary research is not only a growing demand in all areas of research funding, but also comes with certain challenges on the methodological and institutional level. Attention also needs to be drawn to the underlying institutional structures in which participatory sustainability research takes place, as well as in the assessment of research excellence. Based on first-hand experience, the TIM is foreseen to carry out both own research (up to a fifth of her/his time), and to act as an ‘educator’ providing basic input for the development of teaching modules on inter- and transdisciplinary research that are gaining more and more importance in the curricula at the University of Graz.

**Responsibilities**
- Designing the interface between companies, public administration/politics, NGOs and the population (our stakeholders) on the one hand and research/science on the other
- Independent accompanying research on transdisciplinary stakeholder processes
- Initiation, establishment and maintenance of national and international stakeholder networks for cooperation in projects of different research groups in the Field of Excellence
- Establishment and coordination of transdisciplinary collaboration in research projects (from assessment of needs, development of research questions, co-design and co-production in research to dissemination of research results)
- Teaching on transdisciplinary stakeholder processes
- Design and moderation of stakeholder processes
- Active support in the preparation and processing of new transdisciplinary research cooperations

**Requirements**
- Doctorate/PhD in communication, social sciences, economics, humanities or natural sciences or non-university experience or qualification in the expected field of activity
- Understanding of and experience with research/university and stakeholders
- Experience in trans- and interdisciplinary work and research contexts, preferably on climate change (in any sub-area, such as climate impacts, adaptation, and/or emission reduction)
- Several years of experience in the design of dialog processes
- Knowledge of and practice in interactive methods in large group moderation in virtual and analog formats
- Excellent knowledge of German and English and, if applicable, experience in publishing (science to public and science to science)
- High personal motivation for transdisciplinary forms of work
Application procedure

Application Deadline: February 3rd 2021
Reference Number: MB/28/99 ex 2020/21

The University of Graz strives to increase the proportion of women in particular in management and faculty positions and therefore encourages qualified women to apply. Especially with regard to academic staff, we welcome applications from persons with disabilities who meet the requirements of the advertised position. If you are interested, please submit your application documents including motivation letter, CV, overview of relevant previous experience, certificates, etc. before the stated deadline. Further information is given here: https://climate-change.unigraz.at/en/tim/

Make sure to indicate the reference number on your application to: bewerbung@unigraz.at

Contact

For further information please contact Prof. Anke Strüver (anke.struever@unigraz.at; phone: +43 316/380-5138) or Prof. Karl Steininger (karl.steininger@unigraz.at; phone: +43 316/380-8441).

• High readiness for constructive discussions in interdisciplinary teams
• Ability and pleasure in independently building and expanding research-relevant networks domestically and abroad
• Responsible working methods and problem-solving skills
• Experience or participation in the acquisition and processing of (national and international) third-party funded projects (desirable)