

SOCIAL INNOVATION, SCIENTIFIC COMPREHENSION AND DEFINITION OF SOCIAL INNOVATION

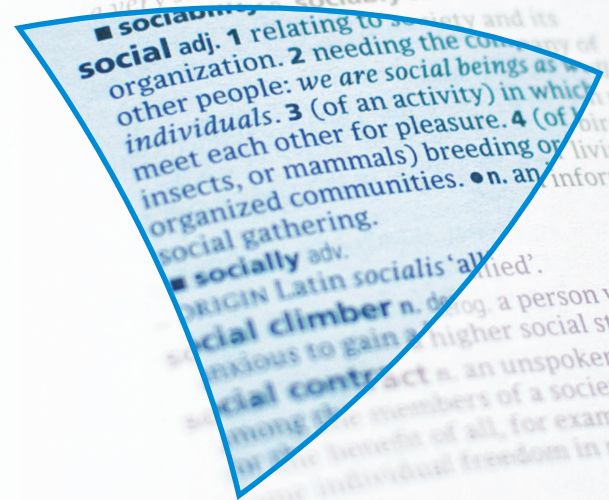
The Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) in Austria was the first institute worldwide researching, developing and promoting the phenomenon of social innovations.

Social innovations are novel or more effective practices or measures of social and socio-technological organisations, influencing social actions intended to contribute to the solution of social issues from micro-organisational scale onto systemic change. They become effective through acceptance, diffusion and successful utilisation by individuals, groups and organisations concerned. Like new products and processes become innovations only with success in markets, social innovations include services, rules, procedures, and social practices that generate lasting value for target groups.

ZSI has been involved in the creation, implementation and research regarding social innovation not only in the domains of business enterprises and civil society, but also in public administration, policy making and social partner's institutions (dealing with e.g. social security, education topics etc.).

WE OFFER

- Expertise in research and measurement of social innovations as well as in designing, creating, supporting and implementing social innovations
- Organising trainings, conferences, summer schools and courses including the Master of Arts in Social Innovation at the Danube University Krems
- Shaping the normative and political discussion on social innovation world-wide and providing advice to different societal stakeholders from various policy fields (e.g. social policy, research policy, environmental policy etc.)



OUR REFERENCES - PROJECTS AND PUBLICATION

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT YEARS INCLUDE

- Co-organisation of the largest conferences on social innovation in Europe including “Pathways to Social Change” in 2015 and “Challenge Social Innovation”, leading to the formation of ESSI, the European School of Social Innovation, in 2011
- Social Innovation Week, 2006, and Social Innovation Summer School, 2012
- Master of Arts in Social Innovation, launched together with the Danube University, Krems, Austria, 2013. In 2015 the first international group of students graduated

PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Co-ordination of Territorial Employment Pacts Project (TEP) which aim to better link employment policy with other policies in order to improve the employment situation on regional and local level
- Social Innovation in Enterprises, exploratory research project

- SI-DRIVE: Social Innovation - Driving Force of Social Change, Integrated Project under FP7
- Social Innovation Community, coordination and support action under HORIZON 2020

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- „Vienna Declaration: The Most Relevant Topics in Social Innovation Research“, 2011
- „Challenge Social Innovation. Potentials for Business, Social Entrepreneurship, Welfare and Civil Society“, 2012; Springer
- „Social Innovation: The Novel Creation, Variation or New Combination of Social Practices“, 2013; Encyclopaedia of Creativity, Invention, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship

More **presentations and ZSI Discussion Papers** on this topic are available at www.zsi.at → Products → Publications.

Imprint



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