

SIAMESE

Social Innovation for Adaptation and Mitigation Experimentation for Transformative Climate Governance

Incremental steps won't solve the climate crisis. Transformative change calls for greater leverage. Experimental approaches have thus gained traction recently. But what exactly makes living labs, socio-technical experiments, testbed planning, grassroots innovations and experimental policies valuable for climate governance? Which contexts and structural conditions determine their emergence and transformative impact? And how can successful climate experiments be upscaled? These and other questions are being addressed in the SIAMESE project.

SIAMESE interprets transformative experiments as social innovations. They constitute tailored solutions for grand societal challenges that change everyday practices and social interactions and thus hold the potential to promote transformative change.

SIAMESE analyzes such transformative experiments in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation in Austria, aiming to understand what facilitates them. To this end, we survey and characterize relevant experimental projects in Austria and investigate the context, knowledge capacities and resources that paved the way to their emergence and transformative impact. These insights will feed into the co-creation of a hub pooling knowledge about experimental approaches and supporting transformative climate governance.

SIAMESE hence combines an analytical objective – the investigation of socially innovative climate experiments in Austria – with the transformative goal of supporting social change and transformative governance. Moreover, the hype around the experimental turn, the associated expectations and changing roles of cities and regions, various stakeholders and civil society are critically reflected in this context.