

Junior Science Café



OBJECTIVE

Involving young people in debates regarding a digital society



PROJECT PARTNER

Wissenschaft im Dialog gGmbH



DURATION

2014 – 2018

Why do digital media allow for far more than just gaming, chatting and Social Media? How can we use the Internet for school and academia? How much research is poured into a smartphone? How will we communicate in 20 years' time and how can I contribute to designing this future? Students have invited experts to their school for a Junior Science Café to discuss these and similar questions. Deutsche Telekom Stiftung supports this format with the objective of giving young people a voice regarding Science Year 2014 "The Digital Society" and to awaken their interest in scientific issues.

Students can show what they are made of at the Junior Science Cafés, because their own initiative is the central element of this academic task force: They plan, conduct and moderate these events by themselves. The students also select the topic and look for a suitable expert. In a comfortable atmosphere, young people between the ages of 14 and 18 are able to organize discussion panels with experts in order to exchange thoughts on developments, tools and opportunities presented by digitalization, their own ideas regarding the future for digital society and on scientific issues. The students document, distribute and discuss the results of the Junior Science Cafés via complementary online facilities. These provide additional materials, which support teachers and students in the organization and implementation of Junior Science Cafés.

An important component of the project is the implementation of workshops for teachers and students, where they are communicated the



Photo: Kaija Machill/Wissenschaft im Dialog

Junior Science Cafés give a voice to the organizers and users of the digital future – young people.

JUNIOR SCIENCE CAFÉS INCREASE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LEARNING WITH AND VIA MEDIA.

concept and can develop the principles offered in everyday school life. The Junior Science Café also provides scientists with the opportunity of increasing their profile in scientific communication and to bounce off their own research on an unbiased and young group.

The project is implemented in cooperation with the initiative "Wissenschaft im Dialog" (WiD) [Science in Dialogue]. WiD brought the Junior Science Café to German schools within the frame of the research project "Wissenschaft debattieren!" (debating science) and examined its effectiveness. The results showed that the Cafés are a successful and efficient means of leading young people to scientific topics.

More information:
www.telekom-stiftung.de/en/jsc

Project partners

Wissenschaft im Dialog (WiD)

Wissenschaft im Dialog (WiD) – an initiative of Germany's scientific community – brings science and society together for discussion. The German scientific community initiative was founded in 1999 by Germany's major scientific organizations. WiD organizes science and research related discussion panels, exhibitions or competitions and develops new formats of scientific communication. With this community initiative, scientific organizations strengthen the dialogue between science and society, also with controversial research topics. WiD was founded on initiative of the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft. Other foundations joined as partners. WiD is substantially supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

wissenschaft : im dialog

Contact

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DEUTSCHE TELEKOM STIFTUNG

Deutsche Telekom Stiftung was established in 2003 to strengthen Germany's position as an education, research and technology leader. It is one of the country's main corporate foundations with an endowment of EUR 150 million. Deutsche Telekom Stiftung's mission is to improve education in the digital world concentrating on the so called STEM subjects science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It focuses on four core areas: Education Drivers, Education Opportunities, Education Innovations and Education Dialog.

In Education Drivers, the foundation supports people who inspire others to study STEM subjects. Education Opportunities involves projects to prepare children and teenagers to succeed in STEM fields and participate fully in our connected world. In Education Innovations, the foundation invests in researchers and teachers who specialize in STEM subjects. Finally, Education Dialog comprises all the projects in which the foundation works with policymakers and civil society to improve education in a digitized world.