



PROJEKTARBEIT

„How To Scale Up Innovation?“

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Elitestudiengang Responsibility in Science, Engineering and Technology

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How To Scale Up Innovation?

Julia Renninger belongs to the first student intake of the elite master's program "Responsibility in Science, Engineering and Technology" (M.A. RESET). She is currently in her third semester and working on the research project SCALINGS, which is coordinated by the MCTS and leading scientist Professor Sebastian Pfothhauer. The consortium includes partner universities from 9 European countries. The three-year project (2018-2021) is funded by the EU Horizon 2020 strategy and investigates the innovation method co-creation. Within this network, Julia Renninger engages with case studies around innovative forms of urban energy supply and distribution.

Co-creation & the Challenges of best-practice Transfer

SCALINGS examines the innovation method co-creation in three technological domains: Robotics, Urban Energy and Autonomous Driving. Co-creation describes the practice of bringing together diverse actors in a joint innovation activity for mutual benefits. For example, a company that produces a healthcare robot would include – besides its in-house engineers and developers - local nurses, doctors and potential users in the design and development process of the robot.

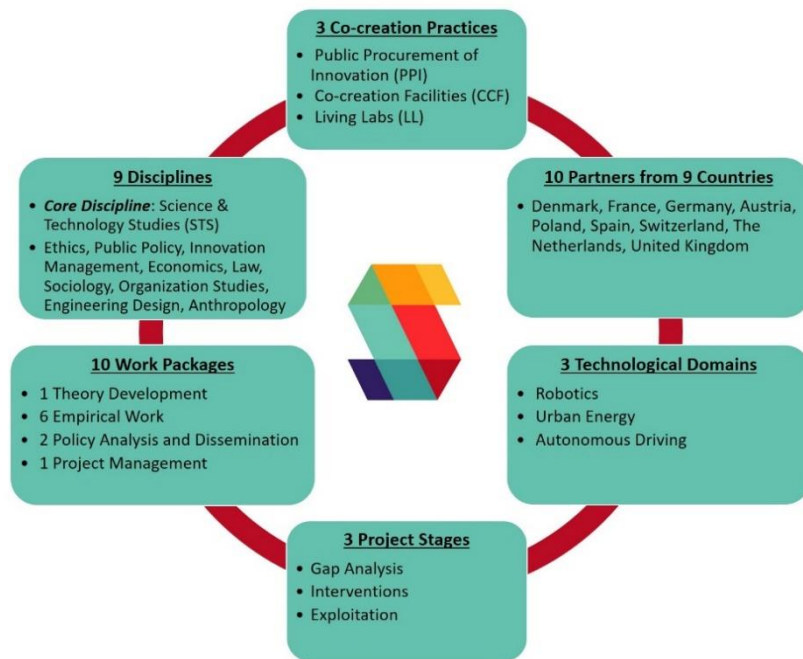
Co-creation thus promotes the idea of products or processes that are customized to local and user needs. It also poses an answer to calls for a more innovative, open and democratic innovation process. Companies or governments, for example, count on scaling up to wider markets and learn from successful co-creation practices elsewhere. Nevertheless, the scaling up of co-creation practices and outcomes across diverse European countries poses its unique challenges. A healthcare robot, which was co-developed for a hospital in Munich, might be optimally suited for this environment. However, it is uncertain whether the robot will fit the social, cultural or organizational context of another hospital, city, region or country.

The interdisciplinary team of researchers aims to study questions such as: What does it mean to innovate responsibly and collaboratively with many and diverse stakeholders? To what degree do innovation practices differ across regions, cultures and technological fields?

Co-creation and Urban Energy?

Within SCALINGS, Julia Renninger focuses on the domain Urban Energy, i.e. on projects that experiment with smart urban energy concepts in real-life laboratories ("living labs") and include citizens, local politicians, urban planners and others in the innovation process.

After the projects are selected, the team schedules interviews and on-site field studies. This will provide insights into how co-creation practices are actually "lived" in practice and which of its elements turn out to be more or less successful. When German and e.g. Danish or Dutch energy projects are compared, similarities or differences between the countries can be identified. This way the team extracts region-specific factors that influence the success of a co-creation practice and examines how best-practice transfers from one country to another could be organized. In the next step, these learnings will be implemented in selected projects and tested by targeted interventions into their innovation process. One goal is to create a "socially robust" framework for future co-creation activities.



This picture shows elements of the SCALINGS project
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Elite Master's Program "Responsibility in Science, Engineering and Technology:

🔗 www.mcts.tum.de/reset

More information:

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