

FIRST STEPS IN THE PROJECT "THIRD MISSION" – HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Introducing the project (brochure, website, etc.) in the summer semester of 2016;
2. Documenting existing Third Mission activities at the University of Vienna.

In a first step (summer semester of 2016), Third Mission activities at the University of Vienna will be documented in interviews with representatives of organisational units, especially faculties.

Based on the interviews and defined priorities, existing Third Mission activities and projects will be comprehensively documented, with the aim of making them more visible. For this purpose, a university-wide online survey will take place during the winter semester of 2016/17.



INFORMATION AND CONTACT

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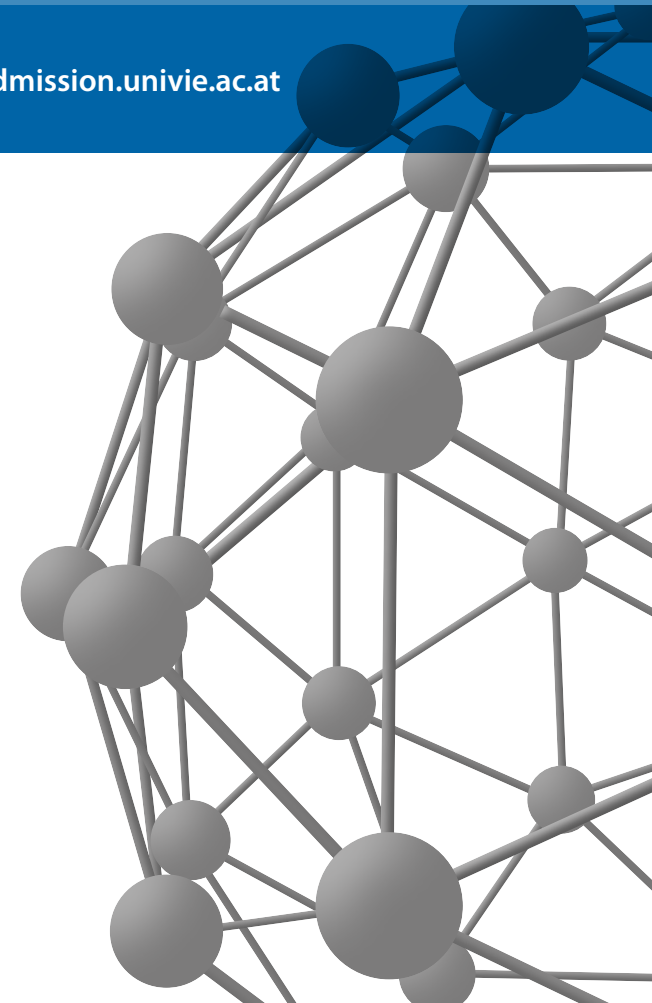
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THIRD MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

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UNIVERSITIES' THIRD MISSION

To address the growing societal and economic challenges, there is an increasing demand for universities to use their knowledge from research and teaching to fulfil their so called "Third Mission" in society and economy. This implies taking responsibility, actively and consciously, for the society on whose behalf they are working.

The Third Mission has two key priorities:

1. targeted use and transfer of academic knowledge to help resolve diverse societal challenges;
2. transfer of technologies and innovations in the form of cooperation with public and private enterprises.



THE PROJECT "THIRD MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA"

At the University of Vienna, multiple activities directly relevant to the Third Mission are ongoing. However, most of them have not been formally identified as such and are not interconnected.

The aim of the project is to:

- collectively develop a specific content-related profile for the Third Mission of the University of Vienna;
- conceptualise an explicit framework for a sustainable implementation of the Third Mission at the University of Vienna;
- develop concrete measures for implementing the Third Mission, including identifying and valorising relevant activities, making them visible and interconnected, and developing quality assurance measures.

The project will be implemented in coordination with research and academic teaching, with the aim of further strengthening these essential pillars of the University.

The implementation process will:

- build on the existing expertise at the University;
- explicitly regard the diversity of cultures within the University;
- capture, valorise, systematically interconnect and structure existing activities (Third Mission Network).

This process may also serve to initiate and implement new activities in research and academic teaching, both in cooperation with external partners as well as in the form of lived social responsibility.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT "THIRD MISSION"

The Third Mission is intended to be a shared agenda of all organisational units and as many university members as possible. Thus, it becomes an element of the University of Vienna's public profile. Active participation may include a variety of different aims and priorities, depending on the focus of the organisational units or individuals, such as:

- extended networking with societal actors and third-party funders;
- extended cooperation with public and private enterprises;
- establishment of new and transdisciplinary research projects in direct response to economic and social needs;
- integration of socially-relevant topics in research and teaching (service learning);
- better preparing students for taking over responsible tasks in politics, society and economy;
- extending the professional skill profile of the workforce;
- increasing the society's appreciation of science and research at the University of Vienna.

