

- **No.51**
- **Idea-Mining as an outreach strategy**

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- **Abstract:**

- Idea-Mining is an important part in our strategy to foster student outreach activities. During a whole day participants from the scientific world on one hand and from the civil society on the other hand work together. In a moderated process all participants get mixed and work on a given question. By using special creative techniques they are fostered to share their individual knowledge, experience and point of view on the underlying problem. This creative approach enables the participants to develop new perspectives and to learn about the different ways of thinking in each case. Students are specially trained to moderate those workshops. Next to basic soft skills, e.g. communication techniques, moderation skills and creative techniques they develop and experience expertise in group dynamics and cooperation. During the whole course the students are accompanied to guarantee mentorship if necessary. Next to the mentorship they get trained in a simulated Idea-Mining to consolidate the lesson contents. A final summary completes the course and leads students to reflect the moderation. The practical learning approach allows high learning advance. Both sides take benefit from this cooperation. The civil society participants on one side get access to high scientific knowledge and creative solution finding processes. This will strengthen them to compete with upcoming problems in future. The students on the other side develop practical skills and expertise. Next to this the moderation training as much as the moderation of workshops itself are accredited in the field of general studies as graduate requirements. Both sides also bring something in. The civil society provides realistic problems and questions. With this it enables the students to work on real challenges to develop realistic learning contents. The students bring their knowledge in and their ability to connect different points of view. This opens the room to develop highly innovative and new solutions.