

Official Opening of the “Zukunftsraum” on June 13

KIT Urban Development Projects “District Future“ and “Reallabor 131” Establish Central Meeting Point for Transdisciplinary Research and Dialog with Citizens

ERÖFFNUNG!
ZUKUNFTS-
RAUM!

13:30 Uhr
13.
Juni
2015



The Zukunftsraum is a central meeting point for scientific work, advisory services, and dialog with citizens. (Photo: ITAS/Alexandra Quint, Katja Saar)

It is a milestone for the two transdisciplinary urban development projects of KIT “District Future – Urban Lab” and “Reallabor 131 – KIT findet Stadt”: On Saturday, June 13, 2015, the “Zukunftsraum” will open its doors on the occasion of the Baden-Württemberg Sustainability Days and in the presence of the Baden-Württemberg Minister of Science, Theresia Bauer. In the center of Karlsruhe’s Oststadt that is to be transformed into a sustainable urban district in the long term, a central meeting point will be established for scientific work, advisory services, and dialog with citizens.

Thanks to its direct vicinity to the city center and the KIT Campus South, Karlsruhe’s Oststadt is characterized strongly by the life and work of students. In this highly dynamic urban environment, the Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) and other institutes of KIT have found an optimal space for experiments. Within the framework of the two research projects, Karlsruhe’s Oststadt is to be rendered sustainable with the participation of

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the people living there, science, industry, and local administration. So far, however, a central project office has been lacking.

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, the “Zukunftsraum für Nachhaltigkeit und Wissenschaft” (future space for sustainability and science) will be opened officially and fill this gap. In the center of the project area, the Zukunftsraum will be the central meeting point and contact office for citizens as well as the place of work of scientists and other actors involved in the transformation of the Oststadt.

The official opening will take place on the occasion of the Baden-Württemberg Sustainability Days. The Baden-Württemberg Minister of Science, Research, and the Arts, Theresia Bauer, will first give a welcome address and then directly talk to interested citizens. Other welcome addresses will be made by the Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe Frank Mentrup, and Karl-Friedrich Ziegahn, Head of the “Natural and Built Environment” Division of KIT.

“Cities are future labs of modern society,” Minister of Science, Theresia Bauer, says. “Projects, such as District Future/Reallabor 131, make Baden-Württemberg assume a pioneering role in the development of viable solutions for urban spaces by science in cooperation with society.”

“Karlsruhe is a city of creative minds,” Lord Mayor Frank Mentrup adds. “Students and scientists come here to conduct research and to develop solutions for the future. Now, the KIT with its project “District Future – Urban Lab” brings together science and citizens. I am very happy about this, because an urban society mainly lives on community. And creative impulses ensure further development.”

“Research for the city of the future is an important task of science to ensure viability of our society,” Karl-Friedrich Ziegahn says. He coordinates urban research at KIT and for the Helmholtz Association. “At KIT, research relating to this topic covers a very wide range, from engineering to environmental research to social sciences. By means of *Reallabore* (field labs), this research can be transferred to a real environment and research can learn much from reality. Here, the project office plays an important role.”

Program for the Opening of the “Zukunftsraum für Nachhaltigkeit und Wissenschaft”

Venue: Rintheimer Str. 46, 76131 Karlsruhe Oststadt

Program – Saturday, June 13, 2015

- 10.00 hrs **Workshop 1: Build Your Furniture**
 Workshop 2: Build Seed-bombs
- 13.30 hrs **Official Opening:** Musical introduction to open the doors
- 14.00 hrs **Welcome Addresses:**
 Minister Theresia Bauer (Baden-Württemberg Minister of Science, Research, and the Arts)
 KIT Division Head Karl-Friedrich Ziegahn
 Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe Frank Mentrup
- 14.15 hrs **Opening Presentation on the “Zukunftsraum”**
 Musical interlude
- 14.45 hrs **Discussion to Join**
 “Nachhaltige Entwicklung: Vom Wissen zum Handeln”
 (Sustainable Development: From Knowing to Acting)
- 15.30 hrs **Conclusion of the Program and Continuation of the Workshops**
- 18.00 hrs **End**

Permanently at the office:

- **Poster exhibition** relating to the Reallabor 131 and other sustainability projects
- **Timeline** of District Future (photo exhibition)
- **Interactive photobox** of the Karlsruhe School of Sustainability
- **Snacks and beverages**

KIT possesses extensive scientific competences for research into, development, and integrated planning of the city of the future in all major aspects. Scientists of five KIT Centers – Climate and Environment; Energy; Mobility Systems; Humans and Technology; Informations, Systems, Technologies – work on studies and the sustainable design of urban spaces from their disciplines’ perspective and in an inter- and transdisciplinary manner.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation pursuing the tasks of a Baden-Wuerttemberg state university and of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. The KIT mission combines the three core tasks of research, higher education, and innovation. With about 9,400 employees and 24,500 students, KIT is one of the big institutions of research and higher education in natural sciences and engineering in Europe.

Since 2010, the KIT has been certified as a family-friendly university.

This press release is available on the internet at www.kit.edu.