



## Abstract

“How should we live?” Participatory Research and Design methods for more sustainable behaviour in the next generation.

Ulrike Haele, Marco Kellhammer  
IDRV, Institute of Design Research Vienna

**Keywords:** participatory design, self-empowerment, informed design decisions

What role can design play in formulating economic and social artefacts for a sustainable future? What is needed in order to close the gap between knowledge and action? One key concern is winning wider acceptance for the change towards more environmentally and socially sustainable ways of life. The focus is on students aged 14 to 17 years, since they will be the consumers and citizens of the future. The starting point is an expanded design concept, which moves away from specialization and towards improvisation; away from specific solutions to problems and towards the discovery of new opportunities. This project can be seen as a multi-step research process at the intersection of scientific and creative practices. We propose involving the future users by exploring their usual behavior and consumption practices and analyzing the environmental impact. The collected data forms the basis for informed design decisions. Moderated by the IDRV, the “non-designers” will work with designers on a specific “intervention” for a relevant aspect of their everyday lives. What aspects of a simpler and less resource-intensive life can be designed collectively? Independent thinking and self-empowerment will be the guiding principles for the young researchers and co-designers.

This presentation introduces the “How should we live?” project, carried out under the Sparkling Science program, supported by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.