

Initiating a change in perspective with images of the future & visions

landuni | Research. Teaching. Learning. - In the countryside. For the countryside.

What happens to a rural, central European border region when a university establishes a lively anchor point for research and teaching for 2.5 years and focuses on the future of rural areas? In a region that has been undergoing change for decades, from a former textile industry stronghold to an area that is struggling with emigration, brain drain and many other challenges?

With the "landuni" project, the Vienna University of Technology has developed a format to create a new image of the countryside, initiate a change in perspective and make the potential for innovation visible. The "landuni" offers students and regional stakeholders the opportunity to work together on visions and images of the future using new, creative approaches in order to help shape the future development of the region.

The concept focuses on being on site and engaging in dialogue with civil society stakeholders. Since March 2022, public activities and over 40 teaching events at the "landuni" location in Drosendorf, Lower Austria, have led to a change in perspective among citizens and students. The dialogue has led to new topics and perspectives being addressed, a village renewal process being started and a vacant site being revived.

What potential does the "landuni" format have as a future method of regional development in rural areas?