

# SOAK

## Biomimicry

### SUMMER ACADEMY

9 – 15 July  
2023

Application deadline  
**31 March 2023**

### Nature's Learning Lab

Region Lake Neusiedl, Austria

[www.nachhaltige-hochschulen.at/SOAK2023](http://www.nachhaltige-hochschulen.at/SOAK2023)



COOP  
**SUSTAINABLE  
UNIVERSITIES**

Initiator: Cooperative (COOP) Sustainable Universities  
Organizer/Host: University of Applied Sciences Burgenland  
Partner: University of Applied Arts Vienna



**di:angewandte**  
Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien  
University of Applied Arts Vienna

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## Look Deep Into Nature\*

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On 24 December 1968, during the Apollo 8 Mission, astronaut Bill Anders photographed the earth rising on the moon's horizon. *Earthrise* featured the first color photo of Earth taken from outer space. This picture of the *Blue Marble* became one of the most important images in history and is credited with triggering global environmental awareness and the beginning of the environmental movement.

*Earthrise* marks the moment when people began to realize that planet Earth is a precious and breathtakingly beautiful spot in the universe, in fact, their only home, in the midst of the vast emptiness surrounding it, worth treasuring and cherishing.

Out of this admiration grew a sense of responsibility to protect Nature and all living beings on Earth. People began to recognize how inextricably linked they are to everything and everybody. From that perspective it was not a far stretch to come to understand that the survival of the human race depends on the web of life as we know it.

For SOAK Biomimicry 2023 Nature herself has become the teacher and a living learning lab that captures people's minds and hearts.



*\* Look deep into Nature  
and then you will understand everything better.*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

# About SOAK

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**SOAK (SOMmer AKademie)** is an initiative of the **COOP Sustainable Universities**—a cooperative of 13 Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences that collaborate with other Austrian and international universities toward sustainable futures. The COOP runs this summer academy every year in different regions.



**From 2023 to 2025 the focus is placed on climate change**, the greatest challenge for humanity and life-threatening to all species. All of living beings, including people and communities, must develop and implement ways to respond to the changing conditions that are present already, forthcoming in the foreseeable future and out of their control.

**In these three years**, the **SOAK Biomimicry trilogy** is explored through the Biomimicry Innovation Process in order to propose potential solutions to human problems connected to climate change. Biomimicry is a philosophy and praxis for sustainable innovation inspired by Nature. SOAK participants learn about the strategies Nature has developed to survive and thrive on this planet and apply them to human systems.



# SOAK Biomimicry 2023

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**SOAK Biomimicry 2023 is lead by the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland** and supported by the Universities of Applied Sciences FH Campus Wien and FHV – Vorarlberg. In this effort they partner with the University of Applied Arts Vienna.



**SOAK Biomimicry 2023 tackles problems climate change poses** to villages and cities around Lake Neusiedl and to their economies that depend on tourism in its many facets, such as adventures on water and land, cultural events, local wine varieties and regional culinary experiences.

**The vision of SOAK Biomimicry 2023** is to co-design for and with local communities ways to re-invent who they want to become in order to meet the challenges ahead. It's about co-creating and sustaining environmental, financial and social viability for future generations to survive and thrive in the region in spite of potentially conflicting perspectives and agendas. For this collaboration to be successful, COOP is bringing into dialogue a number of disciplines, sustainability experts and innovation facilitators with community representatives. SOAK Biomimicry 2023 is sure to evolve into an unforgettable week of learning, experiencing Nature and building community with each other.





## Location: Region Lake Neusiedl, Burgenland, Austria







# Focus of the Biomimicry Week

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## Theme

**How might Tourism Industries respond to Climate Change?**

## Design Challenge

The livelihood of communities around Lake Neusiedl is threatened by the environmental impact of climate change. How might they respond to this threat and re-orient themselves and their economies toward sustainable futures? How might they adapt, in the short run, to the new situation and evolve, over time, to guarantee life-giving conditions for future generations?

## Locations

General Region Lake Neusiedl, Burgenland, Austria (Eisenstadt, Mörbisch, National Park Lake Neusiedl). Participants will be commuting between Eisenstadt and Mörbisch for most of the week.

## Working Language

English

German will, most likely, be spoken, for instance, when communicating with local stakeholders. The SOAK team is ready to support with translating between languages.

## Participants

The Biomimicry\* Innovation Process works best with optimum diversity in the room. Hence different levels of education, disciplines, generations, work and life experiences need to be present. Participants will be selected according to this notion.



\*

Biomimicry 3.8 [www.biomimicry.net](http://www.biomimicry.net)

Biomimicry Institute [www.biomimicry.org](http://www.biomimicry.org)

Janine Benyus, co-founder of Biomimicry [www.n2k.world/biomimicry](http://www.n2k.world/biomimicry)



# Learning Objectives

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**By the end of the Biomimicry week, participants will:**

- Have (re-)connected to Nature
- Have had the chance to realize how life creates conditions conducive to life, and connect this realization to climate change and the associated design challenge
- Be able to discuss the Biomimicry approach
- Have explored the three essential elements of the Biomimicry framework
- Have become familiar with the Biomimicry sustainability mandate
- Have practiced the four phases of the Biomimicry Innovation Process, including multi-sensory creative design steps
- Have explored the natural environment in the region
- Have discussed the dynamics of climate change
- Have been exposed to the problems in the region caused by climate change
- Have researched, abstracted and applied Nature's strategies to address the defined design challenge
- Have had the chance to build community, in a deep way, with co-participants, the SOAK team and local stakeholders
- Have been challenged to shift their perspectives and transform their minds and hearts
- Have the tools in their pocket and resources at their fingertips to integrate Biomimicry in their future work



# Learning Journey

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The Biomimicry core team consists of a Biomimicry expert who leads and facilitates the innovation process, a Scientist at the Design Table who guides the scientific research tasks and assures that the information is ecologically and biologically accurate and an Artist at the Design Table who inspires creativity and thinking outside of the box. These three are supported by the rest of the SOAK team that is composed of a diverse group of theme-based experts and stakeholders.

## Pre-Work

- Thu, 23/3      19:00 Information Webinar (optional)  
To join the Zoom meeting click [here](#)  
Meeting-ID: 977 2053 0340, Passcode: 435590
- Sun, 14/5      Pre-Work  
Will be assigned and communicated in the welcome letter

## Biomimicry Week

Participants should be prepared for an intensive work week. Work days will start early, punctually and end in the evenings. Much of the work time will be spent in Nature. Participants will be expected to arrive on time and participate fully until the very end of the work week.

- Sun, 9/7      Arrival at the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland, Eisenstadt  
19:00 Welcome Session
- Mon, 10/7      9:00 Beginning of Work Week  
Introduction to Biomimicry as a Philosophy and a Praxis  
(Re-)Connect to Nature
- Tue, 11/7      Climate Change in the Region Lake Neusiedl  
Adaptations of Nature to Climate Change
- Wed, 12/7      Exploring the SOAK Design Challenge  
Developing the Design Brief  
Researching Nature's Strategies for Responding to the Design Challenge
- Thu, 13/7      Brainstorming and Ideation  
Innovating Potential Solutions by Applying Nature's Strategies
- Fri, 14/7      Refining and Evaluating Innovation Concepts
- Sat, 15/7      Developing Presentations  
Presenting Innovation Concepts to Invited Guests  
18:00 End of Work Week  
18:00 Closing Celebration (optional)
- Sun, 16/7      Departure

## Deliverables

- By end of Jul      Process Book (optional)
- By end of Aug      Research Paper (optional)



# Nature's Learning Lab



# Certificate with Academic Credit Recommendation

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The COOP Sustainable Universities and partnering University of Applied Arts Vienna will co-issue **SOAK Biomimicry Certificates of Participation** including **Recommendations for Academic Credit**.

**IMPORTANT:** Because the COOP is in itself not an academic institution, but an association of 13 collaborating universities, it can therefore not grant but only recommend academic credit. Based on the recommendation listed on the certificate, academic credit can be negotiated by participants with their home universities.

There are three types of certificates to be earned depending on the chosen types of deliverables. To earn any of these certificates it is necessary to have completed the preparatory work before the Biomimicry work week starts and participate fully during the entire week.

## Type 1

### **SOAK Biomimicry Certificate | Basics**

Recommendation for 2 ECTS undergraduate or graduate credit\*  
Daily group deliverables during the work week

## Type 2

### **SOAK Biomimicry Certificate | Praxis**

Recommendation for 3 ECTS undergraduate or graduate credit\*  
Daily group deliverables during the work week  
Deliverable of a Group Process Book by 31 July 2023

## Type 3

### **SOAK Biomimicry Certificate | Research**

Recommendation for 4 ECTS undergraduate or graduate credit\*\*  
Daily group deliverables during the work week  
Deliverable of a Group Process Book by 31 July 2023  
Deliverable of an in-depth research paper by 31 August 2023 (to be graded by home university representative who will grant the academic credit)

## Note

SOAK guarantees that the depth and quantity of required performance and assigned work will be representative of ECTS standard as listed above. The quality of the actual work submitted will have to be evaluated by the credit-giving institutions.

\* Difference lies in the depth of research aspects of the work

\*\* Difference lies in the depth and the length of the required research paper



# General Information

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## Costs

### Tuition

Free!

Participation in SOAK Biomimicry 2023 is free of charge. The COOP Sustainable Universities and partnering University of Applied Arts Vienna believe in the importance of collaborative sustainability efforts for the common good and are therefore using their own resources to organize this summer academy. However, all personal costs occurring during the Biomimicry week must be paid by participants directly.

### Registration Fee

EUR 150.- non-refundable

### Work-related Expenses

Minor expenses may occur associated with learning activities

### Personal Expenses

- Transportation to and from and during workshop week
- Accommodation
- Meals

### Scholarship

If financial support is needed stipends or other funding sources might be available at home universities or funding organizations (to be self organized)

## Accommodation & Travel & Meals

### IMPORTANT

All travel arrangements and accommodation need to be self-organized and paid by participants. Meals will also be paid by participants themselves.

### Dormitory

A dormitory (OEJAB) is available next to the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland in Eisenstadt:

[www.oejab.at/en/students/dormitories/eisenstadt](http://www.oejab.at/en/students/dormitories/eisenstadt).

Rooms will be held for SOAK participants until **31 May 2023**. The house is expected to be fully booked, and there are no guarantees that a room will be available for you to book thereafter. The cost is 34,50 Euro per night and person (local tax included), single room occupancy, including WC and shower in the room directly, no breakfast, but there is a kitchen on each floor that can be used.

Wait to book your room until you receive your welcome letter, but do not miss the deadline of 31 May 2023.

## **Hotel / airbnb / B&B**

If you wish to stay in a commercial hotel or private room/apartment or bed & breakfast you might be interested in accommodations in or close to Mörbisch (where we will spend much of our outdoor learning time). Since July is peak season book as soon as you receive the welcome letter! Tourism Office Mörbisch: [www.moerbisch.com/beherberger](http://www.moerbisch.com/beherberger).

## **Travel**

If you are interested in shared travel, place your name and contact info on the list that will be provided with the notification letter and later emailed back with the welcome letter.

## **Meals**

The SOAK Team will organize group lunches (paid by participants). Breakfast, dinners and snacks in between are to be self-organized.

## **Gear and Materials**

### **Gear**

- Outdoor clothing and shoes for any type of summer weather
- Bathing suit, towel, blanket
- Protection against sun and insects (incl. ticks)
- Bike would be a great asset to bring (but can also be rented locally)
- Backpack
- Water bottle (reusable)
- Flash light (recommended)
- Binoculars (recommended)

### **Provisions**

- Snacks that can easily be carried in the backpack
- Drinks (nonalcoholic)

### **Tools & Materials**

- Personal sketch book (bound, white pages, no lines)
- Photo and film camera (mobile phone will suffice)
- Design tools and design materials (list will be provided)
- Special workshop materials to build creative models or prototypes: tchotchkes/small objects (list will be provided)

## **Legal Forms**

### **General**

Participants need to confirm that they take responsibility for their own safety (form to sign will be provided in notification letter)

### **Insurance**

Participants need to have their own health insurance that is valid in Austria (form to sign will be provided in notification letter)

### **Copyrights**

Participants need to waive copyright in favor of Creative Commons Licence (CC0) for all work created during SOAK Biomimicry 2023 (form to sign will be provided in notification letter)

### **Model Release**

Participants need to sign a model release form allowing the organizers of SOAK to use images of participants and their work in all media and in all kinds of materials (form to sign will be provided in notification letter)



# Instructions for Application & Registration

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Maximum Number of Participants: 30

Application Deadline **31 March 2023**

- Who can apply**
- Students/alumni of all levels or employees from all Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences
  - Students/alumni of all levels or employees from the University of Applied Arts Vienna
  - Students/alumni of all levels or employees from other universities and tertiary educational institutions

- How to apply**
- STEP 1 Go to the [application webpage](#) and submit the required application materials by **31 March 2023**.
- STEP 2 You will receive a notification letter whether or not you have been accepted to participate by **16 April 2023**.

- How to register**
- STEP 3 If you have been accepted follow the instructions for registration (provided in the notification letter), pay the **non-refundable registration fee of EUR 150.-** and submit legal forms and emergency contact at the latest by **30 April 2023**.
- If you miss this deadline your seat may be given to the next person on the waiting list.
- STEP 4 The completion of your registration will be confirmed by **14 May 2023** with a welcome letter that includes your pre-work assignment that you are required to finish before you arrive at the Biomimicry week in July.

**Important reminder** As soon as your registration has been confirmed book your accommodation and organize your travel!

**APPLY NOW**

# SOAK 2023 Team

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## Biomimicry Team

### Lead, Biomimicry Expert

**Regina Rowland**, University of Applied Sciences Burgenland  
Sustainability Officer, Professor for Innovation, Process Designer,  
COOP Sustainable Universities Co-Chair

### Co-Lead, Scientist at the Design Table

**Daniel Bayer**, National Park Lake Neusiedl—Seewinkel  
National Park Ranger, Climate Ranger, Naturalist, Agricultural Scientist

### Co-Lead, Artist at the Design Table

**Elisabeth Kopf**, University of Applied Arts Vienna  
Project and Communication Designer, Lecturer for International  
Programmes in Sustainable Developments, UniNEtZ Member

## Teaching Support Team

**Astrid Fajtak**, University of Applied Sciences FH Campus Wien  
Expert for Sustainable Water Use and Agriculture, Environmental Engineer,  
COOP Sustainable Universities Member

**Regina Scheitel**, University of Applied Sciences Burgenland  
Sustainability Ambassador of the Department Social Work, Lecturer for  
Environmental Social Work, COOP Sustainable Universities Member

**Christof Strabler**, FHV - Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences  
Lecturer Process and Environmental Engineering, COOP Sustainable  
Universities Member

**Zuzana Tončíková** Technical University Zvolen, Slovakia  
Associate Professor of Design, Product Designer, Vice-Dean for  
Development and International Relations

## SOAK Assistant Team

**Sabine Koch**, University of Applied Sciences Burgenland  
SOAK Event Manager and Assistant, COOP Sustainable Universities Member

**Luc Kopf**, Design Buero Baustelle  
Media Specialist and SOAK Assistant

## External Experts

**Regina Hügli**, One Body of Water Association  
Artist, Sharing Water Project, Founder of the One Body of Water Association

## Potential Community Representatives

Farmers, entrepreneurs and citizens from the Region Lake Neusiedl, Local  
associations (tourism, cultural institutions, wineries, gastronomy and hotel  
industries), Local government and regional decision makers

# SOAK 2023 Organizers & Partner

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## Initiator

Cooperative (COOP) Sustainable Universities, Austria

[www.nachhaltige-hochschulen.at](http://www.nachhaltige-hochschulen.at)



## Organizer & Host

University of Applied Sciences Burgenland, Austria

[www.fh-burgenland.at](http://www.fh-burgenland.at)



## Co-Organizers

University of Applied Sciences FH Campus Wien, Austria

[www.fh-campuswien.ac.at](http://www.fh-campuswien.ac.at)



FHV - Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, Austria

[www.fhv.at](http://www.fhv.at)



## Partner & Co-Organizer

University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria

[www.dieangewandte.at](http://www.dieangewandte.at)





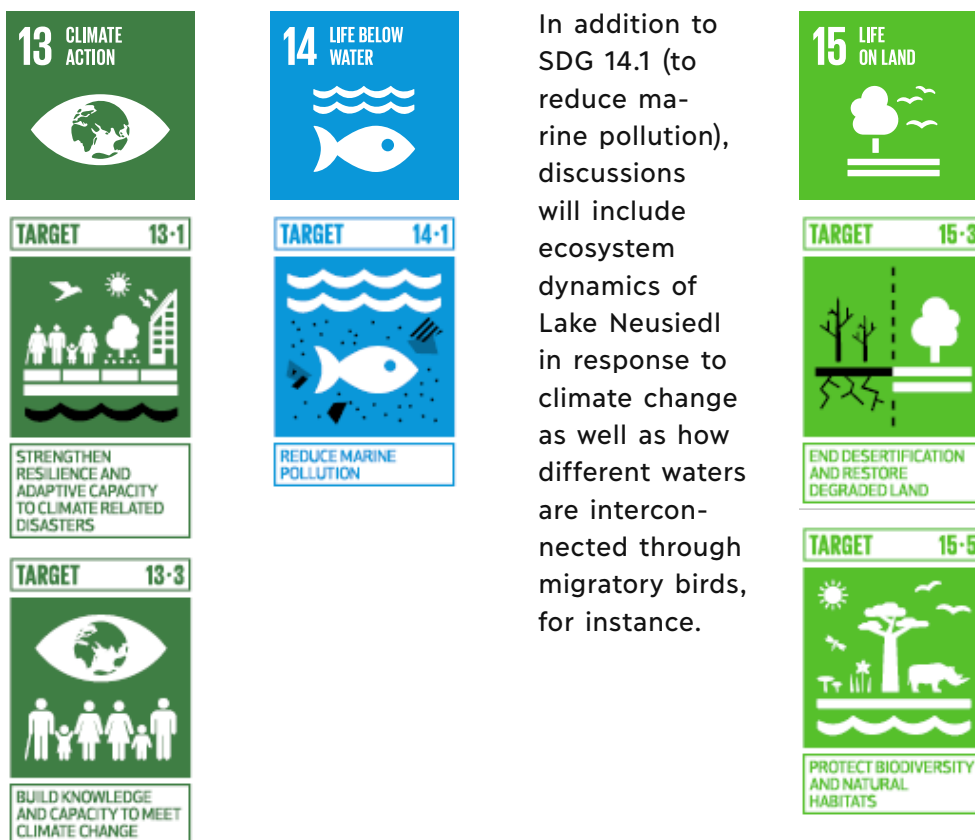


# UN Agenda 2030

**SOAK** contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



**SOAK Biomimicry 2023** contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



**Sustainable Development Goals** [sdgs.un.org](https://sdgs.un.org)

# Addresses, Contact, Imprint

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## SOAK Web Addresses

Coop Sustainable Universities	<a href="http://www.nachhaltige-hochschulen.at/SOAK2023">www.nachhaltige-hochschulen.at/SOAK2023</a>
SOAK 2023 Application	<a href="http://www.fh-burgenland.at/SOAK2023_Application">www.fh-burgenland.at/SOAK2023_Application</a>
University of Applied Sciences Burgenland	<a href="http://www.fh-burgenland.at/SOAK2023">www.fh-burgenland.at/SOAK2023</a>
University of Applied Arts Vienna	<a href="http://base.uni-ak.ac.at/courses/2023S/S04072/">base.uni-ak.ac.at/courses/2023S/S04072/</a>

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## Contact

Administration & Logistics	<b>Sabine Koch</b> , SOAK Event Manager and Assistant, Marketing & Communication, University of Applied Sciences Burgenland Email: Sabine.Koch@fh-burgenland.at, T: +43 5 7705-3543
Biomimicry Process & Academic Matters	<b>Regina Rowland</b> , SOAK Biomimicry 2023 Lead, Sustainability Officer University of Applied Sciences Burgenland Email: Regina.Rowland@fh-burgenland.at, Mobil: +43 677 62004534
Art & Design Applications	<b>Elisabeth Kopf</b> , SOAK Biomimicry 2023 Co-Lead, Artist at the Design Table, University of Applied Sciences Burgenland Email: office@elisabethkopf.com, Mobil: +43 676 3289657

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## Imprint

Content	Regina Rowland, University of Applied Sciences Burgenland Elisabeth Kopf, University of Applied Arts Vienna
Photos	Page 1: Franz Riegler at bilder.tibs.at Page 2: Wikimedia Commons Page 3: Wikimedia Commons / Regina Rowland Page 4: dreamstime / dreamstime Page 5: Stefan Schindler Page 6: Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH_ARGE Naturparke, Wikimedia Commons / Wikimedia Commons, Wikimedia Commons / dreamstime, dreamstime Page 7: Wikimedia Commons, Wikimedia Commons / dreamstime, Elisabeth Kopf / Wikimedia Commons / Elisabeth Kopf, Wikimedia Commons, Wikimedia Commons / Burgenland Tourismus Andreas Hafenscher, Burgenland Tourismus Andreas Hafenscher, Wikimedia Commons Page 8, 9, 11: Elisabeth Kopf & Regina Rowland
Communication Design	Elisabeth Kopf, Design Buero Baustelle
Webpages	Claudia Gutmann, University of Applied Sciences Burgenland cardamom, Agentur zur Förderung des guten Geschmacks