

AFECO Monthly Newsletter

August 2020

Open consultation hours at Career Centre of Bonn University

The Career Center of the University of Bonn offers 25-minute counselling interviews to students and graduates* of the university. Here you will receive information, tips and advice on all aspects of career orientation and starting a career. For August the following time slots for telephone consultation are available: **Tuesday, 18.08.2020, 14:30 - 16:30, 25.08.2020, 14:30 - 16:30 and 27.08.2020, 14:30 - 16:30**. Please send an email to anke.bohne@uni-bonn.de at least 24 hours before the desired date, stating the desired time frame, together with your CV in pdf format and this [registration form](#). All other offers from the Career Centre can be found [here](#).

Gardening for the future: 08.08.2020

Gardening for the future is a workshop that provides both useful knowledge and practical skills to rethink gardening in the context of globalization; develop new ideas and describe the steps to adapt living systems, away from (climatically) outdated garden models. More details can be found [here](#).

Virtual Summer School on Green Business and Sustainability 2020: 24.08 - 04.09.2020

The "Virtual Summer School on Green Business and Sustainability" is dedicated to the interfaces between ecology, economy and sociology, opens trans-disciplinary perspectives for participants, presents current developments in science, design and economy and encourages interdisciplinary discourse and networked research. In virtual spaces, participants learn and discuss together and work on projects in workshops. In addition to fixed modules, participants can put together their own programme of optional modules according to their own areas of interest. Some of the topics are: Value chain water, urban ecosystem and decentralized energy supply. The content is provided by various universities and research institutes in NRW, and the event is organized by the Competence Network Environmental Economics.NRW. Registration is open until 07.08.2020. More information on the German event including registration can be found [here](#).

Change Forum: 27.08.2020, 11:00-13:30

[The Change Forum](#) wants to give young people a space for exchange with science, politics and society. The Forum is based on the Barcamp principle. Participants help shape the program. Anyone can submit questions and discussion points in advance or during the forum, which will be discussed at virtual topic tables. At the same time, they are launching an online platform for the continuation and documentation of this exchange. Information and forum are both in German.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

The Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) is hosting an online event series. Events will be continuously updated. Currently on the calendar is the [EU-AU Summit in October 2020](#).

Internship and Job Opportunities*

[2-3 Student Assistants/ Studentische Hilfskräfte \(WHFs\)](#), Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation - PARI, Center for Development Research (ZEF)
Bewerbungsfrist: 30.09.2020

[Studentische Hilfskraft / wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft](#), Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung (ZEF)

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\) im Bereich „Tierhaltung und Klimawandel“](#), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bonn
Bewerbungsfrist: 02.08.2020

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\) im Programm: Grüne Innovationszentren der Agrar- und Ernährungswirtschaft, Bereich Kommunikation, Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit](#) Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bonn
Bewerbungsfrist: 10.08.2020

Check out the ILR [website](#) for PhD positions and other post-graduate job opportunities.

*job descriptions in German require fluent German skills

Prinzessinnengarten: Marco Clausen

We spoke to Marco Clausen, one of the founders of [Prinzessinnengarten](#). Prinzessinnengarten is a communal space in Berlin dedicated to promoting green spaces, eco-justice and biodiversity with the goal of prompting discussion on land rights, agriculture, stable livelihoods and other socio-economic issues. They offer educational programmes on food sovereignty, gentrification, the commons and socio-ecological transformation in addition to gardening.

Why was Prinzessinnengarten created?

Prinzessinnengarten was founded in 2009 with the goal of transforming wasteland into gardens in order to bring people together in a community space. Since then, we have offered self-education into gardening topics to get people practically involved, established ourselves as a social business with gastronomy and landscaping as additional efforts, and formed a mobile garden. We have two components: the mobile garden that we had established, and the *kollektiv* that is now located at St. Jacobi Cemetery in Berlin-Neukölln.

Briefly tell us what challenges your organization has faced since inception.

Initially we struggled with the perception, because of the image of private allotment gardens that is prevalent in Germany. Our idea was much more than that. We wanted a public space dedicated to the common good that supports biodiversity, nutrition and health.

On the practical side, we also struggled with financing, which is challenging as a social organization, and a lot of unpaid work was unfortunately required even though we believed in offering fair pay. Another issue was access to land. Prinzessinnengarten is located on public land that was meant to be privatized for construction, which we had to campaign for in 2012 in order to save the garden. This was fortunately a success and really opened up a discussion on the privatization of land and showed that it was possible to slow down gentrification in a large city. However, urban gardens remain constantly threatened by destruction as there is no legal framework to protect gardens in Germany. So this remains an ongoing struggle.

We also had to ask ourselves how much we wanted to privatize ourselves and what would be most efficient for our social business model. In the end we went with a collective management approach and made all of our *kollektiv* employees CEOs.

Which Prinzessinnengarten activities do you think have been most popular?

It is quite varied. Over the span of 10 years, we have reached about 30,000 people in our free self-organized cultural programs. About 800 people each year are involved in gardening. On top of that, we receive about 80-100,000 visitors a year. In addition, other groups use our spaces for non-profit purposes, such as festivals, exhibitions and film showings.

What advice do you have for people that want to practice gardening in urban areas and for those that want to get involved politically in environmental and land-related issues?

I think the role of community gardens in food ecosystems is highly overestimated. In my view, the idea of self-sustaining cities deflects attention from where food is procured – namely, in rural areas where food *should* be procured. What we really need is to change the system and reconnect the urban with the rural. In that light, urban gardens provide both hands-on and political education as well as gives a voice to the disadvantaged and connect places under new business models. They are a bridge of discussion and distribution. We need people who can figure out how to change regional food systems in an economic way, fix the ecosystem, and think of new ways to connect places together.

We want you to contribute!

This is a student-run newsletter and we want to hear from you! If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, whether it be on a recurring basis or one time, please contact us at afeco.info@ilr.uni-bonn.de. If you have any helpful information about the AFECO program, job/internship opportunities, going-ons around town or advice for first year AFECO students that you would like to share, don't be bashful and have your voice heard!