

# Languages at the Climate Camp

Language can bring people together and connect their living environments, but it can also exclude and delimit them, thereby reinforcing inequalities. Monolingual information, especially in oral communication, is only accessible to people who speak this language and/or understand certain dialects. Specialist vocabulary or complex/academic language usage can also deter and exclude people. It is important for us to create awareness of the imbalances that arise therefrom and to counteract them wherever possible.

A first step in this direction was the formulation of introductory texts in simple language and the translation of essential information about the camp and the program into several foreign languages. Our aim for the future, however, is to break down language barriers more comprehensively and sustainably as well as involve more people in overcoming them.

We hope that all people, regardless of their mother tongue(s), will be able to participate in the Climate Camp. Therefore, at the Camp there will be some of us who will try to interpret (on request) essential content from and into English and in certain cases also into other languages. In addition, though, we need further support from people who feel comfortable in speaking more than one language and are able to interpret an event quite spontaneously. In practice it will be a mixture of simultaneous and consecutive interpreting; for individuals, whispered interpreting can also be a solution. The main focus here is on essential content, which can also be summarised under time pressure.

In this way, we want to try together to give non-native speakers of German the opportunity to follow and participate in the respective event, especially during plenary sessions, discussions and workshops. A large part of the workshops will be held in German, but many will also be held (primarily or alternatively) in English, two alternatively in French and one each alternatively in Spanish and Portuguese. We have developed our own interpreting technique, with which you can receive interpreted content over headphones via a software on your smartphone. Interpreters also work with this software on the smartphone as transmitter. For those (spontaneously) interested, appointments can be made for a brief introduction, first possible on **Sunday, 26 May before 2 p.m.** (registration by e-mail\* or at the info tent).

We will do our best. But this also means that we are dependent on your help as a participant: If you know, for example, that a workshop is not held in the language you can understand and/or speak, it can be very helpful to **contact us early**. In the info tent there will be colour labels (different colours for different main languages) you can put on your t-shirt or jacket by which you tell your fellow human beings and us as the organizing team that you are looking for interpreters for a certain language. The interpreters themselves will also wear these coloured labels. This should make searching and finding easier. In particular, we will of course try to provide technology and interpreters in good time.

In this context, we ask you to understand from the outset that we cannot always fully cover the diverse camp programme in more than one language.

For more information on interpreting needs, getting a reservation in our list of potential interpreters and any other questions on the subject, please contact us:

\*international@klimacamp.at