**SIR KARL POPPER SCHULE**
**WIEDNER GYMNASIUM**

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**GALESS**
Catch the future

**GALESS Information letter Vienna Conference, April 2025.**
**Call for pre-subscriptions.**

## Introduction

Welcome to the fourth edition of *the GALESS TiltShift Challenge* 2025.

With this document, we send you more information about *the TiltShift Challenge* "*Empty Pockets*" taking place in Vienna at Wiedner Gymnasium/Sir Karl Popper Schule, **April 22-26, 2025.**

The conference title is "*Empty Pockets*" with four thematic strands in Vienna: (1) economic inequality, (2) social inequality, (3) sustainable consumption and (4) resource depletion (more info in the Thesis Description included in this letter). *The TiltShift Challenge* includes a period for students' research projects, followed by an in-person conference.

The conference in April 2025 gives students the possibility to present their work, exchange ideas with their peers from other countries, learn from experts and experiences, and get to know different cultures and perspectives.

## Research concept

The research activities are meant to be set in your school environment, in school teams of 4 students (aged 16 to 19) supported by a mentor teacher. Schools are encouraged to connect with experts and others with an interest in the conference topic. These can be people from your school, local community and/or region, who will serve as living libraries. Schools are asked to provide information about these connections to be shared on the GALESS website.

In order to take part in the conference the teams need to hand in a written report and present their projects at the conference with some form of visualization (digital slides, handouts, poster etc.). The written report must be submitted by March 24,  2025.

# GALESS support

The GALESS front desk organizes the registration process, provides support during the submission process of the abstract and sends out further information (info packs 1, 2 and 3). The GALESS website and database is available through a personal login for participating teams during the full preparation period.

Students will receive GALESS Certificates issued by the GALESS Jury Board in cooperation with the local jury team in Vienna after the conference.

The research papers will be published in a GALESS year-book after the conference, at the end of 2025.

# Conference Costs and Accommodation

While we cannot provide a detailed plan of the conference week just yet, we plan to organize an engaging, thought-provoking and interactive conference. Students from Wiedner Gymnasium/Sir Karl Popper Schule are part of the organizing committee and will contribute to an interesting program. We plan to invite experts in the field of poverty/social inequality and resource inequality. Additionally, we would like to offer trips to organizations that work in this area. As Vienna is one of only four headquarters of the United Nations, we of course plan a trip to what is known as UNO CITY in Vienna. Finally, as this conference should not only focus on research and science, we would also like to organize some cultural experiences for you.

**Costs**

The **conference fee** for Vienna is **EUR 200,-** per student and teacher. (Accommodation excluded) The additional  **GALESS CA fee** is **EUR 50,-** per student and teacher  [further info see Attachment GALESS_fee]

*Schools will be billed by the GALESS front desk for the GALESS CA fee (EUR 50 per student and teacher) directly after the full registration and by Wiedner Gymnasium/Sir Karl Popper Schule six – ten weeks before the conference (EUR 200,- per student and teacher) to cover conference costs, including lunch, entrance fees and a 1 week public transport pass.*

A school-research-team consists of max 4 students; two mentor teachers are allowed to join the team during the conference.

**Accommodation**
Wiedner Gymnasium is conveniently located close to the main train station and public transport. We recommend to look for hotels/hostels close to the main train station where there are nice options for example on www.booking.com

We will also provide a list of selected hotels/hostels in due time. In case you need to/want to book your accommodation earlier, please contact the local project leader:
eva.knechtelsdorfer@bildung.gv.at for support.

# Important Dates

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| **May 30, 2024** | Closing date for pre-registrations. |
| **June 3, 2024** | Full registration, confirmation via mail.<br>Information Pack 1 |
| | Invoice GALESS CA fee (EUR 50,- per student and teacher).<br>[see Attachment 2] |
| **September 20, 2024** | Closing date upload of the research abstract. |
| **October 1, 2024** | Information Pack 2 |
| **March 1, 2025** | Information Pack 3 with conference week agenda and activities. |
| | Invoice Conference fee (EUR 200,- per student and teacher) |
| **March 24 2025** | Closing date research paper (send to info@galess.org) |
| **April 22-26 2025** | Conference week. |

# Pre-registration

If you would like to participate in the Vienna conference, please fill out the pre-registration form and send it to info@galess.com.

GALESS will collect the pre-registration forms in order of date/time that they are received.

Further information:

1. Schools that have participated before in GALESS Challenges and have a Premium Green Logo have preference in the registration process.
2. A maximum of two teams per school are admitted (*only in case of under-subscription*).
3. GALESS pays special attention to equal opportunities for less privileged students. We will try to find a balance in our final placement registration list regarding this consideration.

# "Empty Pockets 2025" Vienna – Thesis description

We understand the topic 'Empty Pockets' as a metaphor for a lack of something. Your research project could refer to one of the following areas:

**1. Economic Inequality**: The metaphor can allude to economic disparities and poverty, emphasizing the importance of addressing issues related to wealth distribution and ensuring that no one is left with "Empty pockets" in terms of basic necessities.

**2. Social Equity**: In the context of social sustainability, "empty pockets" can refer to the lack of access to education, healthcare, and basic human rights. The emphasis can be put on promoting social equity to ensure that everyone has the means to lead a dignified life.

**3. Sustainable Consumption**: "Empty pockets" can be a metaphor for promoting responsible and sustainable consumption patterns. Encouraging mindful consumption and production practices is crucial for achieving sustainable development goals.

**4. Resource Depletion**: "Empty pockets" can also symbolize the depletion of natural resources, emphasizing the need for sustainable practices to ensure that we do not exhaust essential resources such as water, soil, or biodiversity.

For us, this metaphor stresses the idea that addressing global challenges, as outlined in the SDGs, requires collective efforts. "Empty pockets" must address the inadequacy of individual or isolated actions, emphasizing the need for collaborative solutions also on a global scale. This is why we want you to start your research from a local perspective and then extend your ideas to a global scale.

**Investigate** <u>one</u> aspect of "Empty Pockets" (1-4) in your local or national area.

    a. Define the problem you see/experience/observe in your local or national area.
    b. Identify 3-4 key questions relating to this problem.
    c. Gather information to support an extended investigation of this problem.
    d. Define the key focus of the research.

Following extensive research and discussion, **propose** sustainable solutions and/or strategies relating to research focus.

    a. Specify whether you are addressing an issue, raising awareness, or gaining deeper understanding.
    b. Analyze key ideas.
    c. Use critical and creative thinking to respond to your research questions.

**Examine** a similar problem in another country based on your key focus research area. Compare and contrast the two situations.

    a. Explain the insights and learnings gained. What are some of the challenges and/or possibilities?
    b. What can we learn from other countries?
    c. How might our investigation findings contribute to a global perspective of "Empty Pockets"