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*GeoSphere Austria employs over 500 people and has developed a wide range of expertise in more than 150 years of history, from weather warnings to climate and earthquake monitoring. What is the biggest challenge in your diverse work?*

As a national meteorological and geophysical service, we work around the clock to provide information on weather, climate and earthquakes, operate warning systems and maintain a monitoring network with over 300 meteorological and geophysical stations. Our observatories at Sonnblick and Trafelberg in the Vienna Woods also provide important data, which we use as a research facility for excellent applied science. We also cooperate in research and development with a wide range of national and international partners from various disciplines. Coordinating and translating the findings into products and services for stakeholders and users from the general public are the major challenges in my job. In addition, there are organizational tasks such as the merger of GBA and ZAMG, where structures and corporate cultures have to be adapted, as well as the establishment of the national data center as a one-stop store for earth system data, which makes my work as varied as it is exciting.

*Especially after the devastating storms in the south of Austria, it has become clear how important environmental knowledge, experience and risk management are. What would you change in your work so that these tasks can be fulfilled even better?*

Close collaboration between different disciplines to provide low-threshold services that are tailored to the needs of users is also becoming increasingly important for us. The methods and areas of responsibility are changing; the use of machine learning, for example, is now revolutionizing numerical weather forecasting. In order to be able to fulfill our diverse tasks, we always have to keep up with the times.

remain. Today, national weather services are focusing on bringing application-oriented multi-hazard warnings directly to users in near real time. We are not only interested in how much it will rain tomorrow, but above all what impact this rain will have.

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Communication to the public in combination with adapted action measures in coordination with the provincial warning centers takes place in a completely different way than communication to experts from individual specialist areas. The whole thing has to be coordinated, target group-oriented and simply organized in order to meet the requirement of reaching as many people as possible. In addition, of course, the ongoing climate change and the changes in climatic conditions make the work of meteorologists even more complicated, especially with regard to extreme weather events.

### ***What do you want for the future of the CCCA and how do you plan to get there?***

Compared to the past, when the CCCA did not yet exist, what stands out positively today is the united voice of climate science in Austria.

This means that together we receive much more attention than many individual actors. The community coordinates better, there is a broader internal exchange and cooperation between the university sector, operational bodies and various stakeholders also works excellently under the umbrella of the CCCA. You only have to look at the programs of the last Climate Days to see this. The visibility of research, as well as its impact on politics and society, for example in the case of joint publications from the community, is greatly enhanced by the structures that have been created. The CCCA should definitely continue along this path.

### ***Where do you see the most important levers in the fight against the climate crisis in the next 5 years?***

At international level, the implementation of the three major framework agreements (Paris, Sendai, SDG) must be properly tackled and fulfilled. The IPCC reports clearly show where we stand and what needs to be done, but we need to get moving on implementation. In the national context, the low-hanging fruit that can already be implemented within the existing legislation should be addressed immediately. This requires communication again, also in the spirit of the CCCA, a decisive factor. The necessary transformation of society, the change in behavior should be presented and explained in a positive context. It is not too late, but what we do by 2050 will determine what the second half of the century will look like. In this way, climate change can also be seen collectively as an opportunity to transform society together.

