Constructionism 2018
Constructionism, computational thinking and educational innovation

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Wolfgang Slany heads the Institute of Software Technology at Graz University of Technology and is the head and founder of the Catrobat non-profit free open source project in which more than 500 pro-bono collaborators from around 100 countries are developing Pocket Code, an app that allows kids to create their own games, animations, and other apps, directly on their phones.

Pocket Code has been downloaded 500,000 times since 2014 and has received many international prizes and awards such as the Young Minds Award 2015 from the European Commission, the Internet for Refugees Prize in 2016, as well as the Re-Imagine Education Gold Award for the best European Educational App 2016 awarded by Wharton School (best MBA world-wide) in the US. Pocket Code is at the center of the European Commission's "No One Left Behind" Horizon2020 project that focuses on coding for girls.

At Graz University of Technology, Wolfgang also teaches an intensive introductory course on coding in order to increase the number of female computer science students as well as giving students from all study fields the chance to learn coding in a fun and engaging way.

Wolfgang is passionate about poverty alleviation through coding education for teens, in particular girls, refugees, and teens in developing countries, directly on their personal mobile phones. Wolfgang's Catrobat nonprofit free open source project since 2010 develops educational smartphone apps that work in a sustainable way also for teens in less privileged regions who do not have access to PCs and laptops, by relying on the phones most teens everywhere on Earth already personally own, and by bypassing traditional school pedagogy, instead using a constructionist approach focusing on game app development and fun. Professionally, Wolfgang is consulting and teaching on sustainable large scale agile software development and user experience topics for mobile platform projects.