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Citizen Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Our Forests - MeineWaldKI Showcasing at Hannover Messe 2025

The research project presented at the Saxony-Anhalt stand how citizen participation and artificial intelligence could open up new possibilities in forest monitoring.

[Hanover] – From 31st March to 4th April 2025, Anhalt University of Applied Sciences is showcasing its latest research approaches at the Hannover Messe. With focus on this year's slogan "Research for the Future", the state of Saxony-Anhalt is presenting together with its universities in Hall 2, Stand C16. Our research project "MeineWaldKI" showcased at this year's Hannover Messe how citizen science and digital technologies could contribute to forest monitoring and the enhancement of forest knowledge among the population. The team used an artistic model to visualise various forest structure parameters, presented the project's research approaches and explained which elements the AI of the future app should be able to recognise on citizen science photos. The overall goal is to contribute to forest monitoring.

Representatives from politics, research, forestry, and environmental organizations came to learn about the intersection of citizen science, forest monitoring, and AI. "Many visitors expressed enthusiasm for the combination of these three themes and the app, which is still in development," the MeineWaldKI team reported. "Conversations revealed that many attendees have a strong, often also emotional bond with the forest as well as a keen interest in contributing to forest condition monitoring themselves and the possibility to learn more about the forest."

The MeineWaldKI project investigates how citizen science and AI-based image analysis could support forest monitoring. The project is financed by the state of Saxony-Anhalt and the EU (EFRE) and runs from 2024 to 2027.

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