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Audi Environmental Foundation honors young thinker for Master's thesis on handling climate change

- **Study on the involvement of various interest groups in fighting climate change in Europe's mountainous regions with solutions taken from nature honored**
- **Dr. Rüdiger Recknagel, Managing Director of the Audi Environmental Foundation: "Promoting innovative ideas on environmental protection from young scientists"**

Ingolstadt, January 29, 2020 – The Audi Environmental Foundation has honored the master's thesis of a young researcher from the Technical University of Munich (TUM) with the "Sustainable Resource Management Award" (SRM). The prize, which was awarded for the ninth time, went to Dayana Ramirez Gutierrez. The scientist delved deeper into "Stakeholder Knowledge Mapping" (SKM) and developed a concept for initial operationalization. The award winner received EUR 1,500 for her academic thesis.

Dayana Ramirez Gutierrez wrote her master's thesis as part of the EU research project "PHUSICOS." The project examines the development and acceptance of nature-based solutions involving natural resources for adapting to climate change in Europe's rural areas. Ms. Gutierrez addressed the question as to how the knowledge of various stakeholders can be bundled and utilized. The aim is to incorporate the knowledge of the region held by local residents, experts, and other stakeholders into the process of shaping the environment and to thereby ensure a higher level of acceptance. The young Columbian also highlights the challenges that arise when involving various stakeholders in environmentally relevant decision-making-processes. Living laboratories in the pilot regions in Norway, the Pyrenees, Italy, Austria, and Germany use the theoretical groundwork established by Gutierrez to co-design their climate protection solutions.

The Audi Environmental Foundation has been supporting young scientists whose ideas make valuable contributions to resources management since 2009. "Dayana Gutierrez takes a descriptive and creative approach to addressing a problem that concerns us all. By pointing out how local residents must be approached and involved in order to implement nature-based solutions, she creates a basis for developing concrete programs," says Rüdiger Recknagel, Managing Director of the Audi Environmental Foundation. – End –

The Audi Environmental Foundation (Audi Stiftung für Umwelt GmbH) is an active promoter of research into new technologies and scientific methods for a future worth living. Its stated goal is to make a contribution to environmental protection and to create and promote ways of sustainable action. The foundation focuses in particular on the promotion and development of environmentally compatible technologies, environmental educational activities and the protection of the natural resources of humans, animals and plants. It was established in 2009 by AUDI AG as a wholly owned subsidiary and is part of its social and environmental commitment.