

Forest-pedagogic networking through participatory planning, implementation and evaluation of educational activities

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Within the collaborative R&D project NEWAL-NET (2005-2009), educational measures are seen as a key to institutionalise the sustainable development of (mixed-deciduous) forested landscapes in the north-eastern German lowlands.

Although a wide range of forest-pedagogic activities exist in the state of Brandenburg, insufficient linkages between schools (teachers and students), non-formal education (forest wardens; rangers of the Naturwacht Brandenburg) and forest research have been identified as a major bottleneck to the dissemination of innovations within the forest-pedagogical knowledge system.

To overcome this problem, the subproject "Education and Communication" is testing a new participatory approach to networking as a pilot project: Teachers and secondary school students of the Dathe-Oberschule (Berlin) and the Einstein-Gymnasium (Angermünde) as well as environmental and forest pedagogues and researchers of the NEWAL-NET consortium are jointly planning, implementing and evaluating "educational building blocks". The latter are a mix of existing and/or newly developed educational measures, including the creation of games, production of films, the construction of nature trails, etc. The innovative character of the approach lies both in the creative combination of instruments as well as in the fact that they are targeted to a specific school audience. They are planned in such a way that they meet the knowledge demand of different students in an optimal way. As a first activity, six-graders will discover and define the concept of deciduous forests during a four-day school trip to the research area at the Biosphere reserve Schorfheide-Chorin in September 2006.

The concept of the pilot project will be presented as poster. Furthermore, first results of pedagogical activities will be demonstrated, i.e., two games as well as a video clip developed by students of Humboldt-University.



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