

Newsletter

COBWEB

Communicating
the Baltic together
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Nature Schools support General Education
Learning by doing
Education for Sustainable Development
Learning Nature around us – Birdwatching
Investigating and discovering



CENTRAL BALTIC
INTERREG IV A
PROGRAMME
2007-2013



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Sirje Aher, Tallinn Environmental Department

Eclectic goal-oriented Education for Sustainable development

Paradoxically, Education for Sustainable development (ESD) is simultaneously eclectic and goal-oriented. It is eclectic because it encompasses many diverse areas and activities, and it is goal-oriented because it has a uniform and widely-accepted goal. The essentials of the goal are explicated in the Estonian ESD development plan:

„Estonian residents are knowledgeable of the environment implementing value judgements that support sustainable development in all aspects of everyday life: they value a diverse environment and biodiversity, understand relations between human action and nature to behave responsibly, and make decisions and choices that permit sustainable development“.

Alas, the achievement of this seemingly simple and clear goal requires the involvement and adaptation of the entire educational system, and other supporting institutions. This mainly follows from the wide range of components that form the preconditions to ESD. The aforementioned development plan listed the following:

While school remain the backbone for establishing the necessary skills, knowledge and values, it cannot be expected to succeed without support. Values generally form at home and can only be fostered and further developed by specific activities. For example, to generate enthusiasm for nature and the environment – a core value for ESD – one should conduct some of the educative process in nature and varied environments.



To generate enthusiasm for nature and the environment – a core value for ESD – one should conduct educative processes in nature and varied environments.

Photo: Tuovi Kurttio

Expert Forum in Estonia 20.-24.9.2010

In third COBWEB Expert Forum environmental educators and specialists explored environmental education and awareness rising activities in Tallinn and Tartu. The unforgettable week consisted of visits in the island of Aegna and Tallinn botanical garden as well as a trip along Emajõgi River on the copy of medieval Hanseatic boat "Jommu" and visit to University of Tartu Natural History Museum.

Discovering Aegna

text Maie Zernask,

Tallinn Environment Department

The picturesque little island of Aegna is only 14 km from the city center of Tallinn but only few people have actually visited it. In recent years, the many charms of the island and the establishment of a nature house in 2009 have although increased its popularity. The nature of Aegna island is very diverse and rich in species. The various natural and historic sights of the island are introduced by a guided path suitable for friends of nature, hikers and tourists alike.

Photo: Veljo Runnel



Many children and teachers come to Aegna to participate in the environmental programmes that utilize various methods and the rich surroundings. The nature house hosts many events from teachers' training sessions to nature camps for children. Accommodation is provided so visits are not limited to a single day. Some of the most interesting activities launched in the summer of 2010 with the COBWEB-project. Experience sharing with Finnish, Latvian and Swedish partners led to the creation of several learning programmes including a pirate-themed game for kindergarten children and a role playing game for high school.



Photo: Georg Aher

Most people visit the island of Aegna to get away from urban surroundings. Aegna also presents a great opportunity to teach about nature using the rich and unique environment of the island.

Learning by doing, investigating and discovering

text Anneli Ehlvest, Tartu Environmental Education Centre

In Tartu Environmental Education Centre active methods of learning have been used for years in different environmental and nature programmes both outdoors and indoors. In Cobweb project some of the programmes are evolved, improved and published for wider use.



Photo: Karin Pai

The programme package "The Molluscs teach Us" dives into the interesting and mostly hidden life of molluscs on land and in water. Different observations, investigations, games and laboratory works for secondary and upper-secondary schools introduce molluscs' life patterns and strategies and the connections with other organisms and the environment.

Molluscs are wonderful objects for learning as they exist almost everywhere, move slowly and do not bite or fly away.

"Investigate and Discover" –materials are found in Estonian and English from www.hyria.fi/cobweb/publications



Photo: Tarmo Niitla

The tutorial "Investigate and Discover" introduces two active learning programmes meant for pre-school children and pupils in the first and second stage of study. The aim of the programmes is to introduce the sea, rocks and the rock cycle. Both programmes "Investigate and Discover. Sea!" and "Investigate and Discover. A Stone!" can be successfully conducted in an outdoor class or by the sea but also in a traditional classroom.



Photo: Karin Pai

Birdwatching in Estonia

Margus Ots, Veljo Runnel

Birdwatching has a considerable role in nature education. Many nature schools and environmental education centers use the birdwatching and listening as one of the study methods in their schools in one way or another.

Many nature education programs by University of Tartu Natural History Museum teach about birds and birdwatching is also one of the important parts of that. In addition to programs offered for schools, there are also theme days for public, where both children and adults can under the guidance of experts to observe the birds with binoculars and spotting scopes and learn to recognize different species.

Movement of Animals study material

To enhance the knowledge about biodiversity around Baltic Sea, University of Tartu Natural History Museum has produced a study material for schools and environmental education centers. Interesting facts about animal adaptations for moving in water, land and air have been collected under the title „Movement of Animals“. In addition to illustrated factual knowledge there are also practical exercises accompanying each chapter.

Movement of Animals is found in Estonian and English in www.hyria.fi/cobweb/publications



Photo: Veljo Runnel

Sometimes one can find surprising encounters with nature in towns - here a White-Tailed Eagle in Tartu.



Photo: Veljo Runnel



Photo: Tarmo Niitla

And the Bouncing Float Award winner is.....
.....COBWEB - Communicating the Baltic!

In the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme's second annual Showcase Conference in Riga on September 29th 2010 COBWEB was awarded for showing the best and most innovative environmentally friendly methods to run a project.

Partners * The Hyria Education Ltd., Finland (Lead) / Project manager * Ms Maija Venäläinen * City of Espoo, The Nature House Villa Elfvik, Finland * City of Helsinki, Harakka Nature Centre, Finland * Helsinki Metropolitan Area Reuse Centre Ltd., Finland * City of Nynäshamn, Nynäshamn Nature School, Sweden * Institute of Geology at Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia * Natural History Museum of Latvia, Riga * University of Latvia, Riga * University of Tartu, Estonia * Tallinn Environment Department, Estonia * Tartu Environmental Education Centre, Estonia

Steering Group * Chair Mr Markku Loiskekoski, Hyria Education Ltd * Other members * Ms Kaisa Pajanen, City of Helsinki * Ms Riitta Pulkkinen, City of Espoo * Ms Tuovi Kurttio, Helsinki Metropolitan Area Recycling Centre * Mr Peep Pobbul, City of Tallinn * Mr Alvar Soesoo, Institute of Geology at Tallinn University of Tehcnology * Mr Ivar Puura, University of Tartu * Mr Robert Oetjen, Tartu Environmental Education Centre * Ms Guna Bagrade, Latvia Natural History Museum * Ms Tiina Keinänen, Representative of the Joint Technical Secretariat

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