Organisation of the Forest Education for Pupils in Urban Agglomerations

Forest pedagogy in Germany
Definition

- Forest pedagogy is woods-related environmental education in the context of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Forest pedagogy combines different learning for example environmental education, movement education, social learning and general education
- One of the main task is to familiarise the public with knowledge on ecological forest and to increase their interests and values regarding a cautious dealing with nature and environment
Legal Background

- Forest pedagogy is included in the Forest Act of several German federal states
- In Baden-Württemberg Forest pedagogy is established in the Forest Act in 1995
  § 65 - Tasks of the forestry authorities
  The forestry authorities have to run the assigned tasks, in particular the Forest pedagogy as an educational mission
- The forestry authorities therefore are in duty to do forest pedagogy
Aim points

➤ Sensitisation of the senses
➤ Consciousness of the relationship between human being and forest
➤ Awareness for the relationship between forests - forestry - timber (wood products)
➤ Create understanding for the sustainable use of forest products
➤ Advancement of social and creative competences

Forest education is therefore a promising proposal by the foresters to overcome the triple alienation of people from nature, from the neighbours and of themselves
Main contents of the Forest pedagogy

- Thinking in Networks
- Forestry and Forest management
- Ecological aspects
- Sustainable Development
- Functions

Forest pedagogy in general
Meinrad Joos – President of the Forestry Direction Freiburg
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To Experience the Forest - with Head, Heart and Hands
(a forest pedagogical concept by Pestalozzi)

✓ holistic
✓ adventure and action orientated
✓ to take over responsibility
✓ interdisciplinary
✓ in the context of the education plans

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Target-groups

- Preschool
- Primary School Grade 1 - 4
- Secondary and High School Grade 5 - 6
- Secondary and High School from Grade 7
- Kindergarten
- Multipliers
- Families
- Seniors
- Adults
- Seniors

Forest pedagogy in general
Target group – pupils in urban agglomerations

- Children and young persons living in towns, spend most of the time in the urban area. Their leisure activities are characterized by techniques like computer, game boy or TV.
- Lots of them haven’t the possibility to go in the nature / woods or simply they don’t want to.
- The result is a nature alienation. The children lost their relationship to the environment, forests and forestry.
- For example this can be seen in phenomena that town children sometimes think that cows are violet, because they know the cow from the Milka-Chocolate only. Another example is the slaughter-house-paradox - appreciation of the natural products while rejecting the use of natural.
Target group – pupils in urban agglomerations

Because of the importance of this matter, the forest administration is trying to work against these natural alienation effect by adapting their offers to the needs of the pupils:

- Establishment of forest education facility in major cities (Waldhaus Mannheim, Waldhaus Freiburg, Haus des Waldes Stuttgart, Waldklassenzimmer Karlsruhe)

- The implementation of forest education in the urban areas is exemplified displayed by the “Haus des Waldes” located in Stuttgart
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“Haus des Waldes”

• Forest education and information centre
• Coordination office for the forest education in Baden-Württemberg
• established in 1989
• located in Stuttgart

Target group – pupils in urban agglomeration
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Education and Training

Service Consulting Materials

Guided walks for school classes

Public relations

Exhibitions (permanent and temporary)

Events
- Annual program
- Birthday parties
- Conferences

Tasks of “Haus des Waldes”

Target group – pupils in urban agglomeration
Further facilities:

- Forestal Education Center
- Forest School Center
- Forest Nursery School
- Forest Youth Camping Ground
- Nature trail
- Forest-Mobile

Supply categories of forest education
Forest youth centre

- The pupils should get the possibility to come in intensive contact to the habitat forest and forestry
- Mainly for pupils from grade 6 to 8 (12–14 years)
- The classes stay there around 12 days
- It is a combination of work in the forest, forest education program, field trips and games, fun and sports
“Wald-Mobil”
Ecobus for education in the woods

- The „Waldmobil“ is a mini van, equipped with a small forest exhibition, books that may help to identify species, technical devices such as microscopes, binoculars.

- The “Waldmobil” can be booked by schools to get a biological lesson outside the classroom

- It comes to the school, so that the children can explore the forest in the near surrounding

Supply categories of forest education
**Forest Educational Trail**

There is a large variety of educational trails established in Germany.
Forest pedagogy is a variety different of activities

- Work in the forest
- Forest youth games
- Forest rallies
- Forest adventure day
- Forest guided tours
- Forest project days
- Courses for multipliers
- Family forest days
- Holliday programmes

Supply categories of forest education
Forest youth games

- Forest Youth Games are organized events where school classes take part at a forest competition.
- This is based on forest experiences, knowledge and sport.

- In groups the students have to solve different tasks.
- At the end there is an awards ceremony with small prizes for the winners.
Forest holiday programmes

These are forest pedagogical events for pupils or families during the holiday season

On the picture you can see how to make a witches' broom – the theme of this day was “Witches of the Forest”
Education and further training of foresters

- Because of the importance of the Forest pedagogy the training opportunities in this field were steadily improved for the forestry staff in recent years.

- First of all it is a part of the study at the college or university, where lectures on the topic “Forest education for pupils” must be visited. In the forestry college a examination on this theme is required.

- Further Qualification:
  - Participation in courses on Forest education
    (The annual training programme of the “Haus des Waldes” covers about 80 different offers)
  - An additional training, to become a certified expert for forest pedagogy, can the be completed at the “Haus des Waldes”
Certificate – Forest pedagogy

- Qualification concept created by the “Haus des Waldes”
- Established in 2003
- Objective: quality assurance of the Forest pedagogy
- Target group: foresters, teacher other interested people
  (currently complete about a third foresters, a third teacher and a third other the examination)
- Requirements for the exam:
  - Participation in 13 different training sessions
  - Graduation of a practical training (40 hours)

The conference of the Forest chiefs of the Federal states of Germany diced in 2007 to work out a common concept for Germany

Meanwhile a nationwide framework with minimum standards are existing

10 Federal states are planning to establish the program next year
Conclusions

• The theme Forest education is a very important but still very young in the field of forestry
• Forest education in Germany is in duty of each state, therefore regional differences are possible
• Various working groups in Germany and the “European Network Waldpädagogik” working on the common objective of quality assurance and ensuring the general conditions
• Forest education is also a good platform for the forestry administrations to bring the goal settings of forestry closer to the society
• The urban areas are to support primarily
• Forest education gets through the current shortage of foodstuffs and raw materials once again increased importance
Thanks for listening