

Dig and Learn

Girls and boys explore the ground

In the shadow of the Pisa studies, new forms of learning are demanded: learning at the object by independent acting, observing and critical analysis. While observing and dealing with the elements directly, questions about biological, chemical and physical phenomena emerge. *Dig and Learn* lets children experience soil in a whole new way.



Main Aims

- Promoting the scientific understanding in primary schools based on the education for a sustainable development (ESD) by focusing on "soil" issues
- Promoting the understanding of the own environment in the European context
- Acquiring of suitable skills for meaningful acting for "the One World of tomorrow"
- Linking educational institutions with external partners outside of schools



Transnational Learning

Intercultural learning already begins in schools and kindergartens. Science Shops from Romania (InterMEDIU Bucharest and Inter-Mediu Bacau), Hungary (Hungarian Science Shop), Germany (Bonn Science Shop) and the University of Applied Science Lippe and Höxter cooperate to foster transnational learning. By the direct exchange the pupils can gain experience from European neighboring countries.

Media Experience

Pupils from participating kindergartens and primary schools can exchange their experiences in paintings, small articles, photos or videos on the project website under guidance of their teachers. This exchange gives the European dimension of soil problems an education oriented platform and fosters multidisciplinary and intercultural competences.

Teachers Vocational Training

Besides developing easy to understand experiments and a new media experience for the pupils, the project also aims at training teachers to lead pupils in an advisory manner and guide them in the learning process: from disciplinary knowledge acquisition to its application in close to life, transdisciplinary, social and problem oriented contexts.

Other countries, other problems

In Hungary 3.7 mil. Ha of soil are affected by erosion, considerably influenced by agricultural practices. The Hungarian focus will therefore lie on soil degradation and erosion.

As in Germany about 100 ha of soil are sealed every day, German pupils will learn about the process and effects of soil sealing.

Romanian students will focus on the importance of soil quality, as 12 mil. Ha of agricultural land soils are subject to the influence of pollution.

The sensitivity of children for these problems will be cultivated, training them to investigate, to observe, to offer solutions and to be actively involved in environmental problems.

The project will run until October 2008 with pre-tests starting October 2007, offering a curriculum for general knowledge instructions and a teachers guide on „soil“ issues. This will be accompanied by training seminars for teachers, courses at schools and three national workshops. The website will be used for communication between participating kindergartens, schools and beyond, as well as for the exchange of experiences and project results.

EFSUPS - Exploring the Ground - Fostering Scientific Understanding in Primary Schools
<http://www.teaching-soil.eu/>

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