



Workshop 1

on Thursday, 21st September 2023
9.45 a.m.

at the

17th European Forest Pedagogics Congress 2023

**“Learning to create together –
How can Forest Education for Sustainable Development
build partnerships and empower people?”**

TITLE: pARTner - Learn to Overcome Challenges Together

PRESENTER: **Hermann Schmidt**, certified Forest pedagogue, experiential educator, mindfulness trainer, BNE educator, health hiking guid, and ERA-EWV-FERP Walk Leader. He is self-employed (Wald-X.de) and works as trainer and consultant for sustainability in the sense of the SDGs. He is a volunteer in various organizations (SDWNRW, BDF-NRW) and participates in forest pedagogical working groups.

DESCRIPTION: In this interactive, hands-on workshop, participants work in small groups to complete unique construction projects using natural materials. The workshop facilitates empowerment by encouraging individuals to contribute their unique ideas and skills to their group’s project. It promotes transformation by demonstrating the power of collaboration and the extraordinary results it can produce. The surprise element of the workshop — combining the individual projects into one — highlights the potential of partnerships.

The goal is to **emphasize the importance of partnerships and collaboration in sustainable development** and education. Participants will develop their team-building skills, enhance their creativity, and gain a greater appreciation for sustainable development and forest conservation.

FORMAT: This is an **outdoor workshop** involving hands-on activities. Participants will be divided into groups and tasked with **creating individual construction projects** using provided natural materials. They will then combine their projects into one, demonstrating the power of collaboration and partnerships.

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: min. 10, max. 40

DURATION: 90- 120 minutes

CONCLUSION: Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences and observations during a **reflection session** at the end of the workshop. This feedback will allow the facilitator to gauge the effectiveness of the activities and the participant’s level of understanding and appreciation of the workshop’s goals.

Photos of the individual and combined projects will be taken and shared with all participants. A brief summary of the feedback received, and lessons learned will also be provided to all attendees post-workshop.

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Workshop 2

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**“Learning to create together –
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TITLE: “You don't learn to restore ecosystems in the classroom!” - Highschool research projects as a citizen science in the context of "Education for Sustainable Development".

PRESENTERS: **Dr. Andreas Stockey, Christian Schweihofen**, experimental Highschool at the University of Bielefeld, Germany; **Marta López Rodrigo, Martin Fernandez**, Escola de Capataces Forestais de Lourizán, Spain; **Aaron Gellern**, Ranger City of Bielefeld, OWL regional forestry office, forest and wood NRW

DESCRIPTION: Group offer 1: Get to know the possible variety of examination concepts.

In this part of the workshop, we would like to put practical examples of our examination concepts for discussion. To do this, we present materials from the lessons that are used at different times in a project course: selection and analysis of the area, the development of objectives, finding and discussion of questions and examination concepts, the design for planting plans (types, patterns), the actual planting of trees, the maintenance of the areas, measurement and documentation of the growth success.

The participants should get involved in small groups to think about forest development measures for the visited area and to develop small investigation approaches based on this.

Group offer 2: Develop and evaluate a specific test approach.

In this offer in the seminar room, we want to discuss a new, specific examination approach that can be suitable to be created and accompanied in many schools in Europe. It is about the idea of developing a Citizen Science Citizen Forests reforestation concept that we want to implement and evaluate in various European locations at the same time.

The idea is to use the basic idea of the Miyawaki method (small afforestation area, very densely planted, native tree species of different succession stages) to plant small, species-rich forest islands in new forest foundations or on calamity areas. However, the species mix should only be native to one trial area in the planting area.

At the end, it is important for us in the plenary to ask how the participants basically assess such a European research approach in terms of its meaningfulness? And to what extent would there be interest in further promoting the approach?

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OBJECTIVE: We would like to present the basic idea to combine reforestation with investigation approaches, that is appropriate for a high school based ESD. Participants should get an impression from the examples and materials provided that many possibilities for small-scale investigations can be found on almost all sites.
<https://youtu.be/sdajjzhmTSC>

In addition, it is the methodological idea of the workshop to explain in an introduction the basic idea, the references to climate change and BNE. Depending on your interest and group size, we will then decide whether we stay in a group (1 or 2) or better divide it into two groups.

FORMAT: Discussion on the presented topics, most likely indoors

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: up to 30 Participants (can be divided into 2 groups)

DURATION: 90 - 120 minutes

CONCLUSION: The results of the discussions are to be presented and discussed shortly in the plenum. This is about the breadth of possibilities and the relative 'ease' of generating research approaches that are viable for long-term forest partnerships. We need necessary new target dimensions of civil engagement for the conservation and restoration of our ecosystems - and for this we need new knowledge on an ongoing basis. And we need new, bold qualities of project-based learning.

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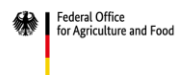


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Workshop 3

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**“Learning to create together –
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build partnerships and empower people?”**

TITLE: Youth as decision-makers for tomorrow: cooperation between forest and school in school forests

PRESENTERS: **Johannes Wagner** (forester), **Daniel Dann** (geography and biology teacher), **Lea Hänßler** (biologist and forest educator). Staff members of Haus des Waldes, Stuttgart

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: School forests are forest areas in which the educational aspect is given priority over other forest functions. They are a kind of “shop window” into the forest ecosystem and its management. Children and young people can take on the role of forester or researcher at this extracurricular place of learning. They have the opportunity to make responsible forestry decisions and to work in a practical and project-oriented way. This offers the opportunity to experience the self-efficacy of one's own actions, to develop sustainable action competences in the sense of ESD and to authentically convey educational curriculum contents in the forest. Thus, learning and school forests offer the opportunity for close cooperation between schools and forestry institutions and for the concrete implementation of education for sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES:

- Insight into a school forest cooperation between a forest education institution and a secondary school
- Practical examples from forest management, project work and thematic modules
- Reflection on opportunities for learning in the forest and references to ESD
- Discussion on framework conditions and success factors for a school forest project

FORMAT:

- Networked thinking and interdisciplinary learning (topics in the forest)
- Self-organised and action-oriented learning (project work)
- Practical skills (forest work)

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: Minimum 12, maximum 22

DURATION: 120 minutes

CONCLUSION: Photo documentation and short handout

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Workshop 4

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**“Learning to create together –
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TITLE: Towards future – creating deep exchange by getting in contact

PRESENTER: Lisa Hafer is head of the Naturschule Deutschland e. V. Since 35 years the foundation is training multipliers in different apprenticeships in the area of environmental education. Lisa Hafer is specialised in the topic of climate change und protection, where she developed and lead educational programs for over 8 years. As scientific employee of the University of Freiburg and as a person-oriented consultant, she deepened her knowledge in environmental psychology, which led to the presented workshop.

DESCRIPTION:

The workshop opens a room for getting into contact with the participants’ experiences made by working in the field of environmental education – especially if focused on transformation, biodiversity and climate change. It gives rise to several possibilities to explore the impact on oneself and the right motivation for this work. Furthermore, it connects the participants and thus enables exchange and the development of a common, climate friendly vision for the future.

Dealing with emotions, sharing experiences and living with/for a meaningful vision is very empowering and strengthening for daily work and everyday life. Societal transformation will need a great deal of communicating and bargaining new rules and guidelines for living with less environmental impact. The crucial skill for that is the knowledge of one’s own inner world and the ability to share it with others. By sharing our needs, true participation becomes possible and partnership all over the world can develop.

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: Max. 22

DURATION: 120 minutes

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Workshop 5

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**“Learning to create together –
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TITLE: The power of the forest - Empowering people
- ESD in context of the functions of the forest and health prevention -

PRESENTERS: **Christa Vitt-Lechtenberg**, Wald und Holz NRW (Federal State Forests NRW), Team leader forest-related environmental education in the head office. **Martin Barth**, Wald und Holz NRW (Federal State Forests NRW), Coordinator of the forest-related environmental education in the Regional Forestry Office Bergisches Land

DESCRIPTION: This workshop is about the interplay of forestry trainers or foresters on the one hand and participants of forest related educational offers and other institutions in the forest-education network on the other hand. More specifically it deals with the role of “Education for Sustainable Development” (ESD) / “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDG) blended with functions of the forest, the preventive promotion of health as well as social interaction in forest education work. Using examples of forest functions and the aspects of (self-)trust, community and motor skills, these are tried out in practice and reflected on in a joint exchange.

OBJECTIVE: The aim of the workshop is to show how children, young people and adults can be empowered to take different perspectives on the forest in order to make good sustainable decisions for the future, for themselves, society and the environment. Another aim is to show the possibilities of forest education for health and self-care.

The participants can analyse the diversity of forest functions for themselves, reflect on their own attitudes to possible contradictions, evaluate them for themselves and justify their own positions. They can communicate the diversity of forest functions to others without overwhelming them in forming their opinions. They can classify the importance of forest education for preventive health care and self-care and communicate this in their programmes.

FORMAT:

First theme – functions of the forest: Together, the functions of the forest are worked out from a personal perspective and assigned to the use, protection and recreation functions. This is discussed in small groups and the results are shared with the whole group.

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Second theme - health prevention and self-awareness: Activities in the areas of (self-)confidence, community and motor skills are practiced together and reflected on in a joint exchange.

Outdoor; alternation of input and practical exercises with the involvement of the participants; weatherproof clothing is advantageous.

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: min. 6, max. 22

DURATION: 120 minutes

CONCLUSION: Obtaining **feedback from participants** during the workshop. Following the feedback, the results and conclusions will be processed by the workshop leader, secured and made visible on the 22nd of September.

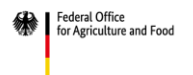
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Workshop 6

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**“Learning to create together –
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TITLE: Forest ESD activities for teachers and nature guides

PRESENTER: Dr. Jakob von Au, lecturer at the University of Education Heidelberg and teacher at the BBZ Stegen

DESCRIPTION: ESD is implemented prominently in nearly all education plans for schools, universities and other education institutions. However, it is mostly formulated rather abstract and fuzzy and there is no link to forest-based outdoor education. This is despite the fact that forests offer the best opportunities to meet the official ESD requirements like “plan and act together with others”, “gain insights into interdisciplinary knowledge and action”, “motivate yourself and others to act” or “gain knowledge through cosmopolitan and multi perspective learning.”

In classrooms, lecture halls and other buildings ESD always tends to stay abstract and diffuse. In contrast, a diverse forest landscape offers multiple opportunities to breathe life into ESD, to transform the viewpoints of participants concerning sustainability, to change attitudes and to empower people to act courageous, determined and responsibly.

OBJECTIVES:

- Get to know innovative forest based ESD activities
- Get to know opportunities and challenges of different activities
- Get ideas how to modify activities consistent with your target group

FORMAT: The workshop will take place **outside in a wooded area**. We will do several activities:

- Building maps in the forest with natural materials
- Activities on global carbon dioxide emissions and local carbon dioxide storage in trees
- Designing the ideal sustainable forest
- Building a CO2 neutral marble run, etc.

DURATION: 90 – 120 minutes

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: min. 3, max. 22

CONCLUSION: All activities will be **written on a poster**, including some **feedback** (advice, hints, experiences...) of the participants. Besides, the activities will be collected in a digital document.

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