

**12 - 2009**

## Greetings from the Board of the EOE

On behalf of the board I want to thank Zerum Ueckermünde and bsj Marburg for hosting the 9th European Conference on Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning, held in Ueckermünde, Germany from September 23rd to 26th 2009. With the topic Water - Space for experiences. Youth and Outdoor Education in the Europe, the conference was following up on the theme of the previous conference that was organized in Wales in 2008, which was directed towards the significance of landscape in youth education. The board is honored to be hosting a conference that generated so much interest and involvement, and are grateful to the plenary lecturers, the many presenters and delegates. It was good to see so many "old" friends and new faces.

The board is also grateful to the Slovenian association CSOD - CENTER SOLSKIH IN OBSOLSKIH DEJAVNOSTI - Center for Outdoor Education in School that will be hosting the next European Conference, in Planica, September 22nd to the 25th 2010. Members are welcome to present their work and share their reflections related to the theme: Encountering, Experiencing and Exploring Nature in Education. (For more details, see the special announcement.)

All new members are especially welcome.

Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt, Dr. Assoc. Professor  
 Chair of the European Institute

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Responsible for this  
 Newsletter: Chris Loynes



## **2010 EOE Conference in Slovenia: Encountering, Experiencing and Exploring Nature in Education**

Encountering, Experiencing and Exploring Nature in Education Centre for School and Outdoor Education/Slovenia in partnership with the European Institute for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning (EOE)

**22nd- 25th September 2010  
Olympic Sports Centre Planica, Rateče  
167, Rateče-Planica, Slovenia**

This seminar will bring together practitioners and academics from around Europe, interested in outdoor and experiential education linked to formal education and non-formal youth work. It is addressed to school teachers, university staff and social youth workers from various fields of practise. The conference will examine different ways and purposes of approaching and using nature in outdoor education. It will also try to build up networks of practical cooperation and knowledge transfer. The theme is based on the generally accepted educational philosophy of outdoor pedagogies that a stay in natural landscapes and confrontation with and exploration of natural phenomena can provide a positive stimulus to the educational processes of individuals.

The conference will be organized around three main topics:

1. Outdoor educational practices in school

This section will raise discussions on whether outdoor practices should be aimed for establishing and legitimizing educational goals of curriculum, or be serving different, more holistic means of education. Other issues will be addressed, e.g.: Does nature serve as backdrop, as an extended fitness centre or gymnasium, in which activities such as mountain biking, canoeing or climbing can be carried out? Is nature seen as a counter-world that offers activities that allow people to forget the pressures of everyday life, which is, in fact, where real life takes place? Or: Is nature seen as a part of us, as the outside extension of our inner state, that we should treat cooperatively and like a friend?

2. Concepts of nature in outdoor study programmes of universities and colleges of higher education

Since many professionals (teachers, social and youth workers, therapists, and counsellors) use outdoor practices in their everyday work, the conference invite papers addressing the different ways in which nature is approached in universities and higher educational study programmes. Comparing different understandings of and ways of approaching nature may not only make understandable what common ground the different approaches might share or where they are special. By looking at concepts of nature it might helpful to sharpen own profiles and extend ranges of possibilities.

3. Examples of successful practice, principles of successful practice

The third topic will address how to assure quality in pedagogical outdoor educational work: Is there a need to set cornerstones for educational processes taking place in and with nature? What can be learned from practices and experiences developed in specific pedagogical situations and contexts? Questions on what best practices might mean and how knowledge, ideas and practices can be disseminated from one context to another will be illuminated.

Keynote Speakers will be confirmed

Workshops will include:

A collection of practitioners and researchers from the 27 member states of the European Union will facilitate both experiential workshops and present papers on research and practical work.

Delegates will also have the opportunity to:

- Visit sites of relevant cultural, educational and environmental interest in surrounding
- Participate in activities designed to share good practice and to engage participants experientially
- Enjoy networking opportunities in both formal and non-formal settings

### **About CSOD**

Centre for School and Outdoor Education (CSOE) is governmental institution which carries out out-of-school classes and other outdoor programs. It is the most significant organisation that carries out outdoor education in Slovenia. It is a part of Ministry of Education and Sports that provides the

funding for its functioning. CSOE currently comprises 23 residential centres and 10 day centres that are scattered throughout Slovenia. Facilities of CSOE are used by pre-primary, primary and secondary schools. They are also used by faculties and other organized groups especially during weekends and holidays. About 40.000 pupils per year (60% of pupils that attend out-of-school classes) do their obligatory week of out-of-school activities in Centre for School and Outdoor Education. The main purpose of the CSOD is to educate in outdoors using specific methods, by which objectives stated in school curricula can be met. The website is [www.csod.si](http://www.csod.si)

### **About the European Institute**

Founded in 1996, the European Institute for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning is a non-governmental body with 248 individual members and 80 member organisations from 22 countries. Its purposes are as follows:

- Development of a European Network between young people, social and youth workers, teachers, educators, academics and students concerning Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning
- Realisation of projects, especially youth projects, in the field of Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning
- Organisation of European Conferences
- Distribution of Information
- Research on the theory of Outdoor Adventure Education to promote the quality of practice;

- Implementation of research projects and best practices;
- Development of professional standards.

The website of the Institute is at [www.eoe-network.org](http://www.eoe-network.org)

## **2009 EOE Conference Report: Water: Spaces for Experiences. Youth and Outdoor Education in Europe**

### **A Delegate's Perspective**

You know that the waves on the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and canals have a lot in common with 'Water-Space for Experiences. Youth and Outdoor Education in Europe seminar'. Some of the waves rush fast as the small ripples only on the surface and fades out before reaching land. Some are mainly seen under the surface. Meanwhile the rest of the wave is helping the whole wave to reach the land. Waves have duration, length, depth, rhythm, system, but also the outcome is sometimes unknown.

The Seminar was kept on 23rd – 26th of September in Zerum Ueckermünde and it was organised by BSJ Marburg in partnership with EOE. We were around seventy participants from 14 different countries.

The location was like a well-organized sailing ship with highly trained crew. We were excluded from the surrounded villages, which gave us a perfect opportunity to include all the seminar participants to the whole program

and our crew maintained the ship with the German punctuality, so even before you knew you could possibly want anything, it was already done for you. Landscape, weather, food and evening programs played also a significant part to make our voyage so successful.

Let's talk about those waves. In our seminar program we had lectures, workshops, presentations and keynotes, all in a context to the topic: "Water-Space for Experiences". Some of us were highly educated in the field of experiential learning, also having long history of educating others and some of us were practitioners who knew barely the basics of the theory we use in our everyday work. In other ships this unbalanced equation between different levels in knowledge among participants could have caused mutiny or exclusion but not in our case. Thank you all the participants, we created together amazing atmosphere to open conversations. The inclusion of participants added value to the seminar.

Some of the lectures or workshops were familiar and safe like a serene surface on the lake. Others gave new insights leaving small ripples behind and others were deeper and larger like huge ocean waves which travel hundreds of miles before reaching land. The combination of all these waves created fascinating scenery from the sea of different angles of experiential learning in Europe. The outcome of this seminar will be seen in numerous co-operations and new projects

and methods participants will organize and do. Now we will turn the bow of our ship to the new horizon, towards Planica, Slovenia. Lets meet there 2010!

Tanja Liimatainen

program coordinator

Metsäkartano Youth and Wilderness Centre  
(Tanja has worked with youngsters for ten year and at the same time studied adventure education and experiential learning. 'The combination of nature, youth and learning is something you can never be bored doing. You always find something new in nature, yourself and in the others.')

### **Feedback**

'The EOE seminar in Ueckermünde was for us (sailing ship "De Tukker") a get together of great importance. It was very well organized, had an excellent program (including the beautiful weather and landscape!) and the people we met and made contact with (and still have) made it all an inspiring event. Our compliments again to the EOE Board and everybody who helped making this seminar a great success.'

Emiel ten Voorde. 'De Tukker'

### **Seminar Follow Up**

The ZERUM staff have created an online photo album in which you will find pictures of the EOE conference.

<http://public.fotki.com/ZERUM-UEde/>

Password: water

Seminar Discussion Group Launched. The EOE have organised a web based discussion platform. It can be used to share information, to discuss different topics of outdoor education and to develop plans for the future. For you, it also supports the possibility for easier networking. The platform is accessible for registered members. Unfortunately the sign in is in German language but nevertheless you probably will get along. We will help you if you cannot manage to become registered. Just follow the link:

<http://195448.homepagemodules.de>

### **Proceedings**

The proceedings of this Seminar will be published in 2010.

### **The COMPASS Network: News**

COMPASS is a network of colleagues from different universities in Europe who are working in the field of outdoor adventure and experiential education. The network which is based on a „peer-friendly“ connection was established in 2002. Partners in the network are coming from

- Transilvania University of Brasov (Romania), Faculty of Physical Education and Sport (Dr. Elena Moldovan)
- Bucks New University in Buckinghamshire (UK), Faculty of Leisure and Tourism (Prof. Dr. Barbara Humberstone)

- University of Cumbria in Ambleside (UK), School of Sport and Outdoor Education (Dr. Chris Loynes)
- Palacky University of Olomouc (Czech Republic), department of Leisure and Outdoor Education (Ludek Sebek)
- Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in Oslo (Norway), Ass. Prof. Dr. Kirsti Gurholt Pedersen)
- University of Marburg (Germany), Department of Sports Sciences and Motology (Prof. em. Dr. Peter Becker, Martin Lindner)

The overall goals for the network are

1. to establish exchange programmes for students as well as for lecturers:

For half a year or for a full academic year students can study at one of these universities within a framework of bilateral agreements. They take part at different lectures and enhance their knowledge of outdoor adventure education through an intensive analysis of cultural influences to this field.

University lecturers are visiting the universities in the network as guest teachers based on same bilateral agreements.

2. to establish joint lectures and a European module for all universities:

Once a year lecturers from different institutes are planning a common course which will happen in one of the countries.

In the last years there had been several meetings in Marburg (Germany), Olomouc (CZ) and in Oslo (Norway). The results can be seen in the following points:

- the number of students using the possibility to study abroad has increased and is still flowing,
- the staff exchange programme has increased and there are some lectures given together by lecturers from different universities,
- in March 2007 an international research seminar for phd-students took place in Marburg (Germany) with 15 doctoral students presenting and discussing their topics,
- a European module for exchange students has been developed at the University of Cumbria, the Norwegian School of Sports Sciences and the University of Marburg which is an important contribution to academic recognition at each home university,
- further European modules or even a European master course is in the stage of development.

The network will continue its work. It is open for new members to join. For further information please contact:

Martin Lindner

University of Marburg

Email: [martin.lindner@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:martin.lindner@staff.uni-marburg.de)

<http://www.uni-marburg.de/ifsm/aep>

### **The Breaking Barriers Network: News**

“What happens if participants from four, five, six or even eight different nations, all of them working in the field of “special needs’ education”, are meeting to work together?

The language being used is English, but only one member is a native speaker.

How do social workers from Italy communicate with a colleague from Germany?

Very easily, they speak Slovenian! The Slovenian member of the seminar translates into English and the Romanian participant, who is a member of the Hungarian minority in Romania translates for the German, who although unable to understand English can understand Hungarian!"

Communication within the project 'BreakingBarriers' since its foundation in 2001 is not always easy, definitely a little bit slow and sometimes improvisational, but in every case full of dedication! The "chain of communication" above is just one example. Everyone tries to express themselves in such a way, that all participants are able to understand. It also shows clearly how various and colourful the participants are!

"Not always easy, definitely a little bit slow and sometimes improvisational, but in every case full of dedication" – that could also be a very good description of our common subject. We are all dealing with (as the British say:) "Adventure For All" – that means: Offering adventurous and experiential learning in the outdoors for children and youth with special needs.

'Breaking Barriers' was 'born' in 2001 at the 5th Eurocongress of the European Institute

for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning (EOE)", that took place in Marburg/Hessia. One important aim of this conference was the building of networks. The participants worked in groups dealing with similar target groups and themes. One of these working groups dealt with the subjects "Disabilities" and "Outdoor-experiential learning". Participants of four European countries – the UK, Sweden, Portugal and Germany worked together – always having the aim to create a new cooperation together.

Concerning the workshop 'Disabilities', the idea of a European network was created. The aim was a meeting in the year 2003, the "European Year of People with Disabilities". There were different tasks to fulfill. Firstly we had to discover the actual state of the development of adventurous based activities for people with handicaps in Europe following the principle of integration and normalisation. Secondly, based on this information and results, a continuously cooperating network would be formed, that would organise projects with the aim of developing adventure based pedagogical projects for young people with and without disabilities.

And one important result was the foundation of 'BreakingBarriers' (although the network got its real name one year later during the next meeting in Portugal) – as a platform to learn to know each other's practical experiences in pedagogical 'outdoor-influenced' work with young people (with or

without special needs) and to build up a sustainable and “durable” cooperation!

‘BreakingBarriers’ nowadays consists of six institutions of five member countries (Slovenia, Romania, Portugal, the Netherlands and Germany). A Polish partner-organisation intends to join too. The network is increasing.

We try to meet every year – organizing either a seminar, preparation meeting or a youth meeting. So we had meetings in Coimbra/Portugal, Churchtown/GB, Koper/Slo, Selters/Ro and two times in Ueckermünde/Germany during the last years.

Our next step is the foundation of a ‘grown-up’ network supported by Youth for Europe (like all our other meetings). The applicator is the partner from Portugal - and the application was successful. This foundation gives us the possibility to work more constantly and spaciouly with the subject!

In november 2009 the next seminar will take place in Coimbra/Portugal – another step for the European network ‘BreakingBarriers’! And the implementation of an outdoor- and experiential way of learning in the European pedagogical work for and with children and youngsters with special needs advances into its next ‘round’!!

## **EOE AGM Report**

The Annual General Meeting for 2009 was held in Ueckermünde on September 25th 2009. Around thirty people, board-members included, were gathered to discuss:

1. The Board's Annual Report,
2. Ongoing projects and networks,
3. Future of the EOE,
4. Questions raised by members.

The Board has had three meetings since the last election held in Wales, September 2008 (Sept 2008 in Wales, Dec 2008 in Paris, July 2009 in Marburg) and one meeting with CSOD – ‘Centre for School and Outdoor Education’ in Slovenia, the organizers of the 10th European conference to be held in Planica, Slovenia September 22-25th 2010. The main themes discussed at the board meetings were: strategies for the future; networking initiatives; development of new projects and research and of concepts; trends and perspectives; planning of new conferences; ideas of new publications - proceedings, books etc.; contact with members; and the need to renew the web-site.

A Newsletter was published in August 2009, and distributed to all members by e-mail and on the website. The Board has put much effort into an application for funding of the everyday work of the EOE, which unfortunately was not successful. Financing the everyday work of the Institute is

continuously a struggle. On the other hand, the commitment and volunteer work of board members, co-opted board members and members keep our strengths and network alive. The board is pleased to report a general increased interest in the work of the EOE. We are contacted by new members nearly every week. The board is grateful for the volunteer work of EOE members and for financial support from host organizations of board members and co-opted members. Donations from individual and especially organizational members are welcome.

In the open discussions on how to improve the work of the EOE two main issues were raised: how can the board support the members - and how can the members support the board; and how to communicate with members and how to renew and run the website? Two suggestions were developed:

1. The board of the EOE should organize a networking conference or a seminar just for groups of people who want to build up cross national networks on selected themes; e.g. related to outdoor education within school from kindergarten to upper secondary school, social youth work at sea by sailing tall ships etc. etc..

2. To make a list of evaluation reports on "good practices" and to make these available as an electronic library. Such a list already exists on the website of the University of Edinburgh. The Board should follow up and

make the link known to the members.

Report form ongoing networks; COMPASS and BREAKINGBARRIERS; was presented. See presentations below.

## **Announcements**

### **a) Proceedings of the 8th European Conference for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning are published**

'Landscape, Youth and Outdoor Education. What are we doing? What should we be doing?'

This was the title of the 8th international conference of the EOE that was held at Trinity College, Carmarthen, Wales 17-20 September 2008. In total 85 delegates attended with 18 European Countries represented as well as delegates from Canada and Australia. Over 40 presentations and workshops were delivered and four key note speeches.

The theme of the Seminar was to address how Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning with young people interfaces with the natural environment. 'The seminar and proceedings therefore provides an insight into how some European practitioners engage with the natural environment as well as contributing to the debate on how we could reframe our future

understanding and practice to reflect the current environmental and pedagogical concerns faced by us today and in the future.” (Dr. Andy Williams and Dr. Nichola Tucker-Welton in the foreword of the proceedings).

If you are interested in the proceedings that contain most of the keynote speeches and the other contributions please contact Dr. Andy Williams (a.williams@trinity-cm.ac.uk).

### **b) Pictures of the history of the EOE are wanted!**

The EOE Board wants to work out a visual presentation of the EOE; its visions, initiatives and history. However, only very few pictures from conferences, seminar, meetings etc. are available. All members are asked to look into their picture "galleries" and e-mail scanned/digital pictures to [kirsti.gurholt@nih.no](mailto:kirsti.gurholt@nih.no) <<mailto:kirsti.gurholt@nih.no>>, the sooner the better. Thank you!

### **c) An Invitation to ‘Broaden the Horizons’ Conference in the Netherlands 8th – 12th March 2010**

Broaden the Horizon is the name of an international "study-visit" in 2010 which will be implemented under the responsibility of the sailing ship De Tukker. The theme will be innovation, unorthodox work, new opportunities and work in relation to question

oriented Experiential Learning methodologies, youth care and employment- and trainings participation.

Translated from English, Broaden the Horizon means to explore “broadening of the horizon”, which means for De Tukker an example of innovation, getting new contacts, opportunities, possibilities.

This study week will be organized for the very first time and takes place from Monday the 8th till Friday the 12th of March 12, 2010, at various locations in Twente (Netherlands).

Following is the Open Day held on Saturday, March 13th. This day is not officially part of the study week.

Objectives of the study week include the exchange of knowledge and experience around experiential learning, and developing and maintaining contacts in order to realize new international initiatives. The spoken language is English.

Participants in the study week include employees of child welfare institutions, outdoor companies and governments from European countries, dealing with youth.

Currently 16 people from 7 countries have said they will attend. We strive for a number of about 25-30 people from about 10 surrounding European countries. “Broaden the Horizon” during the study week focuses not only on the international participants, because on Wednesday, March 10 there will

be a conference with some 150-200 participants. Relevant and interested stakeholders will be invited to attend this conference.

Broaden the Horizon is financially supported by Youth in Action. Youth in Action provides funding and support to European youth projects. Youth in Action is implemented by the Department of International Dutch Youth Institute. [www.youthinaction.nl](http://www.youthinaction.nl)

The project Broaden the Horizon recently started compiling the program content and the initial preparations to facilitate the event. Jeroen ter Beke is principal. The project consists of: Jelle Stegenga, Karin Hermelink, Sophie Verler (intern), Maarten van Minnen, John de Haas and Emiel ten Voorde.

The latter is externally recruited to the project lead. His experiences are in the area of facilitation of (large) public events and events in the context of brand positioning. Emiel works on the project every Tuesday at the office of the De Tukker, Resedastraat at Hengelo as base.

Training participation. De Tukker Broadens (continuously) the Horizon! The intention is to broaden the horizon two or three times, to be implemented annually. The form in which the cast will be depends partly on the success in 2010. The sailing ship De Tukker recently - after participating in an exciting four-day event in Germany - became members of the EOE. (European Institute for Outdoor

Adventure Education and Experiential Learning) probably will broaden the horizon into this organization.

Given the ambitions of the Sailing ship De Tukker on international contacts through Broaden the Horizon there is a specially designed logo, obviously inspired by the original Tukker logo.



Questions, offer help, comments?

Please contact:

Emiel ten Voorde

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+31 (0) 6 20168108 Want the newsletter?

Send an email to:

[info@broadenthehorizon.eu](mailto:info@broadenthehorizon.eu)

### **Other Ways of Learning: How to order**

Peter Becker/Jochem Schirp (Eds.)

Other Ways Of Learning. The European Institute for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning 1996-2006

Paperback, 375 pages, Marburg 2008, bsj Marburg

ISBN: 978 – 3 – 940549 – 03 -7

The European Institute for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning (EOE)

was founded in October 1996 in Spital/Pyhrn in Austria and is the first Europe-wide cooperation between experts working together on further developing a pedagogical practice that uses the educational sensory potential inherent in adventure in challenging natural situations. The title of the book, Other Ways of Learning, corresponds with the conceptual basis of the European Institute, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006.

The contributions illustrate the various stages of the development of the Institute and discuss the central conditions of the other way of learning in outdoor adventure education and experiential learning practice. The articles show the range of those topics and questions that the Institute was concerned with between 1996 and 2006 and which are among the key issues of our times: such as the question of the consequences of globalisation and technological development, ecological responsibility and sustainability and of the cultural differences of outdoor adventure education, among many others. With contributions from Barbara Humberstone, Chris Loynes, Roger Greenaway, Robbie Nicol, Peter Higgins, Peter Becker, Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt, Steve Bowles et al.

The price for the book including packing costs and postage is 23,00 EURO.

Paying methods: Bank transfer in advance or after invoice

Address for purchase orders:  
bsj Marburg  
Mrs. Schnell  
Biegenstr.40  
35037 Marburg  
Germany  
postmaster@bsj-marburg.de

### **Member Profile: The Venture Trust, Scotland**

“If you want to sort out your life, your priorities, improve your self confidence... then you should go to Venture Trust. It's no holiday though”

David - participant

Venture Trust runs intensive personal development programmes using the medium of wilderness journeying, adventurous activities and the application of cognitive behavioural skills. The programmes help vulnerable or chaotic young people develop life skills, support them in making positive changes in their lives and help them to effect behavioural change.



Venture Trust helps course participants recognise what they need to change and why; the programme will then help them to grow the confidence and motivation they need to make those changes, and subsequently develop the systems and frameworks for identifying and effecting those changes. The wilderness course element is based on three underpinning principles; Experiential Learning, Choice Theory/ Reality Therapy and Pro- Social Modelling. Although there are many developmental techniques used situationally, these three elements are embedded deeply in all parts of the course. The therapeutic modality used is Reality Therapy.

Our programmes give vulnerable young people time and space in a wilderness setting, far away from the pressures of their home environment, in which they experience physical, emotional and social challenges taking them into their personal 'stretch' zone where powerful learning can take place.

All through the programme, a course participant will be encouraged to be the author of their own narrative, building a positive history and taking the first steps toward constructing a new identity. Venture Trust helps participants evaluate what they learn, and helps them to transfer that learning to their home environment. A Pathway plan is produced by them, with help from their Venture Trust key worker, which will help them navigate the path to their aspirational goals.

Venture Trust runs a range of personal development programmes for vulnerable

young people including young offenders, young people on probation, young women affected by domestic abuse, young people leaving the care system, young carers, homeless young people, young female offenders, young "gang" members or potential members, and long-term prisoners preparing for release. These programmes vary in length, but typically are 12 to 18 month in duration, with a large part of the programme taking place in their communities.



For more information see the Venture Trust website – [www.venture-trust.org.uk](http://www.venture-trust.org.uk)

### **Manual for facilitators in non-formal education**

The aim of the Council of Europe's youth policy is to provide young people — girls and boys, young women and young men — with equal opportunities and experience which will enable them to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society. The programme of activities aims at associating young people, through governmental and non-governmental youth partners, with the aims and priorities of

the youth policy of the Council of Europe. The participants in the education and training activities are multipliers who, within their youth organisations or institutions, are involved in training other young people and/or in designing activities and programmes that put into practice the values, standards and objectives that preside over the youth policy of the Council of Europe. The use of non-formal learning principles is combined with experiential learning approaches, the most apt at making the learning experiences meaningful and relevant. Activities are implemented in accordance with quality standards agreed with partners of and participants in the activities. The quality of these activities depends, to a large extent, on the competences and abilities of the facilitators of these educational processes, many of whom are volunteers within youth and community organisations. This manual was developed in order to support them in that role, particularly when they are part of the educational teams of study sessions at the European Youth Centre. The manual provides essential information and practical tips for all who are involved in planning and delivering non-formal education intercultural activities on an occasional basis. This manual is part of the endeavor of the Council of Europe's youth sector to support and develop the quality of non-formal education activities across Europe and, in doing so, contribute to further their recognition.

### **Manual for facilitators in non-formal education**



Author(s) :  
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by Sabine Klocker  
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### **Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning in the Early Years**

Author: Sara Knight, Anglia Ruskin University  
Publisher: Sage, 2009

#### **Review**

'This book provides a valuable resource for anyone wanting to set up a Forest School or gain a deeper understanding on the practise it entails' - Katherine Milchem, Forest School Co-ordinator in South West London, Chair of the FEI London South West Cluster Group

'This is essential reading for students and practitioners in Early Childhood....If you want to know how to incorporate good practice into all of your outdoor play activities, the clear guidance in this book will not only help you in this but will provide you with an inspirational read' - Early Years Educator

'This book is highly recommended. Anyone intrigued by the idea of forest schools, or currently working in this way and interested in finding out more about what colleagues in other parts of the country are doing, will find this book invaluable' - Early Years Update

'This book is a very welcome addition to literature on outdoor learning in the early years. Sara Knight captures the essence and ethos of Forest School through a detailed consideration of case studies and research projects, and gives a succinct overview of the theoretical underpinnings and history of the movement in the UK. The book also provides useful practical guidance on participating in Forest School, and will be an inspiration to all those concerned with giving young children the opportunity to engage in natural outdoor spaces on a regular basis. Essential reading for both students and practitioners in early childhood!' - Tim Waller, Reader in Early Years Education, University of Wolverhampton

Learning outside the classroom is an essential part of early years education, and this book looks at the opportunities the Forest School experience can offer young children for learning outdoors, and how this fits into the early years curriculum. By offering clear guidance on what the Forest School approach can achieve, the book shows you how to incorporate good practice into all outdoor play activities. Issues examined include:

- what is, and what isn't, a Forest School experience
- how exercise, fresh air and learning outside help counter obesity
- how Forest School can improve behaviour and social skills
- accommodating different learning styles
- examples of Forest School in practice

This is an inspirational read for anyone working in early years education, and for all those who care about the future of our young children and the world in which they are growing up.

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/Forest-Schools-Outdoor-Learning-Early/dp/1847872778/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1260361579&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Forest-Schools-Outdoor-Learning-Early/dp/1847872778/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1260361579&sr=8-1)