

PROJECT INFORMATION

Facilitation of forest kindergartens in the Czech Republic

Updated: June 2016



A group of children of a forest kindergarten playing and learning in nature

Source: A.-K. Klauer

Background

In Germany, the first forest kindergarten was officially accepted as preschool institution of education in 1993. Meanwhile there are more than 1,500 forest kindergartens teaching and educating children outdoors. In the Czech Republic, the popularity of forest kindergartens is strongly increasing, especially among parents. Though, only two of the currently existing 144 private initiatives, which educate children outdoors, have been officially accepted as kindergartens. The others operate without permissions and without state funding. The concept and functioning of forest kindergartens are so new to Czech authorities, that their regulations very rarely allow their recognition as preschool institution of education.

Project details

The objective of the project was to detect obstacles that inhibit the issuing of operating licenses to forest kindergartens in the Czech Republic and to identify ways to overcome them. The project focused on options for more flexible administrative regulations. The variety of approaches and procedures in Germany offered valuable examples. But because these cannot be transferred unchanged into the framework conditions of the Czech Republic, recommendations specific to these framework conditions had to be derived.

At a workshop in Prague, German experts and representatives of the four relevant Czech ministries (for the Environment, of Education, Youth and Sports, of Agriculture, as well as of Regional Development), of state and municipal authorities for hygiene and health, as well as of the Czech Association of Forest Kindergartens discussed different options. At a joined press conference in June 2016 the Czech Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, as well as the Committee of Education of the Czech Senate presented the recommendations derived during the course of the project to the public. June, 22nd, was declared Day of Forest Kindergartens.

Target country: Czech Republic
Duration: 09/2015 – 06/2016
Beneficiaries: Czech Ministries of Environment, of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Association of Forest Kindergartens (Asociace Le-sních MŠ, ALMŠ), permit authorities in the Czech Republic
Implementing organisation: Saxony State Foundation for Nature and Environment (Sächsische Landesstiftung Natur und Umwelt, LaNU)
Project number: 59036

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