

## Supporting pre-school environmental education in the Czech Republic



A group of hikers from a nursery school at play; Photo: A. K. Klauer, LaNU

### Background

It is increasingly recognised that sustainable development requires not just an adjustment of social conditions, but also a change in people's behaviour. The foundations for this are laid in childhood. Therefore, elements of environmental education are increasingly being integrated into pre-school education curricula. The requisite environment is created by giving childcare facilities an appropriate structural design. The government of the Czech Republic seeks to make environmental education an integral part of elementary education in the country and is therefore very much interested in German experience in this area of pre-school education. The two countries have comparable framework conditions and educational goals. As a follow-up to a joint seminar in 2008 in Prague (project no. (FKZ) 380 01 189), a Czech delegation was now to be given an opportunity to view several good-practice examples of the structural design of ecological nursery schools in Saxony, Germany.

### Project

From 18 to 20 October 2011, a 32-member Czech delegation composed of representatives of relevant authorities, principals and staff of pre-school facilities, representatives of environmental organisations, architects and landscape designers visited three pre-school facilities in Saxony whose structural elements and outside areas exhibit an exemplary ecological design as well as two pre-school facilities in Saxony with exemplary pedagogical concepts. As well as viewing the premises, delegation members had the opportunity to have a practical exchange on pre-school environmental education with the principals and staff of the facilities, their architects and planners, as well as with parents' representatives and education experts. Participants were especially impressed by the intensive cooperation which some of the facilities had established with the parents. The information visit was devised, technically organised and assisted by the Academy of the Saxony State Nature and Environment Foundation, which is carrying out numerous environmental education projects and maintains close contacts with its Czech neighbours.

At an event in Prague, the participants in the information visit will pass on the experience gained to a wider group.

- Target country/region: Czech Republic
- Duration: 08/2011 – 12/2011
- Beneficiary: Czech administrations, educationists, environmental organizations, companies
- Implementing organisation: Sächsische Landesstiftung Natur und Umwelt (LaNU)
- Project number: FKZ 380 01 268