



ELENA – Experiential Learning and Education for Nature Awareness

ANL leads the trans-European project between Germany, Hungary, Romania and Georgia.

What is ELENA?

ELENA is a trans-European cooperative project of partners from Georgia, Germany, Hungary and Romania with the aim to promote the awareness of nature and the responsibility for nature. The Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL) is leading the project.

The technical and educational approaches were already tested in the highly successful Bavarian model project “Tiere live” in practice: On this occasion, living animals are used in teaching and are co-supervised responsibly by students. The aim is to bring this experience to our European neighbors for application, to develop them and promote “Tiere live” internationally.

ELENA Statistik

- Project-budget: around 400.000 EUR funded by the European Commission in the Lifelong Learning Programme LLP, Comenius
- 9 partner organizations from four countries
- Approximately 70 scientists and practioners participate
- The aim is the training of 1.200 teachers in “Tiere live” about multipliers
- Duration: November 2013 to October 2016

The *ELENA* Principle:

Face to face to nature – real experiences during a human lifetime.



(Foto: W. Adelman)



The challenge

How can responsibility for nature be taught sustainable? How can experiences of life be given in the lessons? And how can a successful takeover of responsibility be measured in the course of a human life?

These difficult questions faced by the research project ELENA- Experiential Learning and Education for Nature Awareness.



Enthusiasm knows no age limit. Brigitte Sturm shows animals live at the ELENA- prelude – here the hedgehog named Hedgy (Foto: W. Adelmann, ANL)

Bavaria provides the know-how: Methods of “Tiere live”

The Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL) has taken the guidance of the project as the Leadpartner and provides the technical and pedagogical basics – from more than ten years of experience within the “Tiere live” project: Living animals are integrated into the school lessons and are supervised by the students themselves.

Whether amphibians, snails, butterflies, hedgehogs or recently also chickens, students should experience enthusiasm in direct contact with living animals, but also overcome reservations and finally take responsibility of their protégés. Guided by the monitoring folder to “Tiere live” with 15 animal chapters and more than 70 individual actions described in detail - a comprehensive basis is available for teachers for the concrete implementation. The project “Tiere live” was a central contribution of Bavaria to the year of biodiversity in 2010 and was promoted together by the former Bavarian State Ministry for Environment and Health and by the Bavarian State Ministry of Education and Culture.



2010: Together with the students, Dr. Markus Söder (at the time Minister of State for Environment and Health) and Dr. Ludwig Spänle (at the time Minister of state for Education and Culture) are enthusiastic to “Tiere live” (Foto: P. Sturm, ANL)





The aim: “Tiere live” goes Europe – and beyond

The aim is to bring the experience in our European and neighboring countries Hungary, Romania and Georgia for application and further development. The practical applications are scientifically accompanied to analyze successes and potential challenges. In the trans-European comparison “Tiere live” is tested on the “acid test”, new country-specific animal chapter will be written and applied. Science and practice are closely interwoven.

The European Idea lives

The European idea has apparently suffered during the financial crises, ELENA shows that Europe is alive and continues to converge: Scientists, practitioners and teachers of educational institutions from Germany, Hungary, Romania and Georgia are working hand in hand in the trans-European cooperative project, funded by the European Union within the program of Lifelong Learning/Comenius.



ELENA kick-off meeting: participants from four nations consult on the beginning of ELENA (Foto: W. Adelman, ANL)

The partners

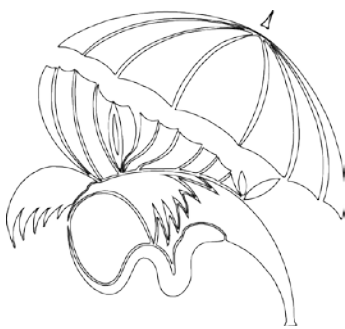
The partners are renowned research institutions, schools and teacher training centers. For Hungary the University of Szeged and the Rogers Foundation Budapest take part. In Romania the University of Sibiu, the community school (Inspecturatul Scolar Judetean) and the gymnasium N21 – both from Sibiu – are involved. In Georgia the organization Bird Conservation Georgia and the National Teacher Training Center of Tbilisi are involved. Germany is represented by the Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL), the Academy for Teacher Training Dillingen and by the Rottmayr-gymnasium Laufen.





Kick-off meeting in December 2013 in Laufen


ELENA is started. 26 representatives met in Laufen to arrange the comprehensive project program. The meeting was officially opened by a special guest star: hedgehog Hedgy. On the example of Hedgy the practice of “Tiere live” could be demonstrated directly: The enthusiasm knows no age limit. Living animals are a heart opener and everyone involved person was clear: This enthusiasm is the key to success – even for ELENA.



The ELENA Logo

The ELENA logo symbolizes the human responsibility for nature. If you take time, you will find - under the protection umbrella - various animals, like an anteater, a butterfly, a snake or a woodpecker. We thanks a lot the creators of this high artistic logo: Alexander Rukhaia from Georgia and Levente Turoczi from Hungary.

Project responsibility

 Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL)

Project Management: Dr. Christian Stettmer, Katalin Czippan und Dr. Wolfram Adelman

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The project management of ELENA takes over (from left to right) Katalin Czippan, Christian Stettmer and Wolfram Adelman (Foto: P. Sturm, ANL)