Project background

Many studies predict a considerable increase of global resource consumption in the next decades.

Along value chains, the environmental impact on ground, water, air and biodiversity is rising, caused by the extraction of resources, the emissions linked to it and the increasing amount of disposal. Consequently, it has become a crucial necessity to improve the efficient use and conservation of resources, supported by political measures.

In this effort, raising awareness for resource efficiency and resource conservation and creating an adequate culture is essential – education and the transfer of information play a prominent role in the process. Therefore, a curriculum for resource efficiency and resource conservation should be anchored in all areas of education.

To support this goal, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bundesumweltministerium – BMU) and the Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt – UBA) commissioned the research project BilRess. The project contributes to the realisation of the German resource efficiency programme (ProgRess).

Contact information

Project management

Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, GmbH; RG 4 Sustainable Production and Consumption
Dr. Carolin Baedeker, carolin.baedeker@wupperinst.org
Phone +49 (0)202 / 2492-241 (secretariat), Fax +49 (0)202 / 292-138

Project partners

IZT – Institute for Futures Studies and Technology Assessment
Dr. Michael Scharp, m.scharp@izt.de
Phone +49 (0)30 / 803088-14, Fax +49 (0)30 / 803088-88

Faktor 10 – Institut für nachhaltiges Wirtschaften gGmbH
Holger Rohn, holger.rohn@f10-institut.org
Phone +49 (0) 6031 / 791137, Fax +49 (0) 6031 / 791140

For an interest in participating in the network “Bildung für ProgRess” (Education for ProgRess) please contact us or join our network database at www.bilress.de!

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Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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The overriding goal of the project is to make a contribution toward realising current resource policy programmes (including ProgRess as a national resource efficiency programme) through an education strategy.

The project pursues two prioritised goals:

1. The creation of a “Road Map Resource Education” in cooperation with the key players in the education sector for a prospective integration of a curriculum on resource efficiency and resource conservation in all essential educational contexts.

2. The development of a network “Bildung für ProgRess” (Education for ProgRess), the establishment of an online communication platform as well as the realisation of a number of events.

BilRess is supported by a project advisory panel out of politics, science and intermediaries, chaired by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Federal Environment Agency: Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung (BIBB); Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (bpb); Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU); UNESCO; GEW-Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft; Hochschule Pforzheim; IG Metall; Kultusministerkonferenz (KMK); Landesinstitut für Schule und Medien Brandenburg (LISUM); TU Berlin/Blue Engineering; UFU – Unabhängiges Institut für Umweltfragen e.V.; Verein Deutscher Ingenieure (VDI); Zentralstelle für Weiterbildung im Handwerk (ZWH) and participating attendance of the Federal Ministries BMBF, BMFSFJ, BMWi.

The project procedure is aligned with a roadmapping process, as well as continuous communication and network development:

- For the “Roadmap Resource Education”, an inventory of existing educational offers is taken and analysed. This includes the assessment of content matters, curricula, structures, competencies, and agents in WP1.
- Based on the results of WP1, the approaches and areas in need for action, which could improve resource conservation and resource efficiency education, are determined in WP2.
- Accompanied by a close dialog with the stakeholders, the findings are merged into an orientation framework (WP3).
- Concurrent with the roadmapping process, the network “Education for ProgRess” is developed and an online communication platform is established (WP4) – following on from existing activities, for example in the areas Education for Sustainable Development and the “Netzwerk Ressourceneffizienz” (German resource efficiency network).
- Communication efforts include network meetings, the presentation of findings at the education sector trade show DIDACTA 2015, as well as the realisation of a major conference engaging high-level agents.