



## Crossing boundaries with New Media

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### Nature Tourism and Education for Sustainable Development with New Media

The ECO REG Ltd., the Barnim Nature Park and BARNIM PANORAMA perform since 2003 German-Polish projects with children and youth. With new media topics such as Nature Tourism, Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) are investigated. In the projects the youths use their skills and interests in the application of new media.

### German and Polish students study the Sustainable Development in the Polish-German border region

Students investigate their homeland with new media. They get to know sustainable development projects and create GPS adventure-tours. Different new media are used, for example, GIS and Internet applications, satellite navigation, remote sensing, digital photography and apps for mobile devices. The students use for their work GPS devices and computer technology of their schools and their own smartphones and tablets.

In particular, Internet geoportals are suitable for cross-border cooperation. They are multilingual, offer worldwide uniform spatial data and processing tools.

Objectives of projects can be:

- Development of interesting and interactive ESD education - offers with new media for young people
- Exchange of experience between German and Polish institutions
- German-Polish student exchange

ESD topics for projects with new media may be:

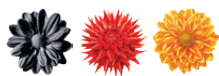
- Investigation of forests, waters, biodiversity or the change in the cultural landscape
- Recording of GPS adventure-tours for nature tourism
- Development of Internet based platforms like geoportals, f.e. [www.jugend-natur-schau-spiel.com](http://www.jugend-natur-schau-spiel.com)

Financing options are EU-, German- and Polish-funds.



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# New methods in ESD with New Media

## Experience in Nature Tourism and ESD with New Media

The ECOREG Ltd., the Barnim Nature Park and BARNIM PANORAMA perform German-Polish youth projects with new media on topics ESD / environmental education or nature tourism since 2003. The projects were funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, Ministries of German Federal States or EU funds.

An example is the project "Crossing boundaries with New Media – German and Polish children and youth communicate Education for Sustainable Development"<sup>1</sup>.

In the project, the students studied the sustainable development (SD) in the German-Polish border region. Their results are presented as GPS adventure-tours on the German-Polish website [www.jugend-natur-schau-spiel.com](http://www.jugend-natur-schau-spiel.com). The GPS tours can now be used as interactive offer with mobile devices.

The website provides instructional material ready to download for students and teachers on the topic "ESD and new media".



The German-Polish website [www.jugend-natur-schau-spiel.com](http://www.jugend-natur-schau-spiel.com)

Joint German-Polish projects are likely to provide the students with the necessary skills. They learn in terms of ESD participation and design expertise.

The students get to know German and Polish institutions, which operate in nature conservation and tourism. They make friends and make the experience that the German-Polish cooperation is necessary and normal.

## Partners for joint German-Polish Projects

Youth should be included by means of new media actively in the SD. For this task visitor centers and environmental education centers must be qualified as partner for schools and youth groups.

Objectives of German-Polish cooperation are the exchange of experiences and the development and further education offers for ESD and new media.

The education offers should have relations to the curricula of schools in Germany and Poland. They are complemented by interactive and fun offers like Geocaching, where students solve small tasks.

The offers are suitable for students aged 10 to 18 years. But they can also be used by families or interested tourists of all ages.



Booklet of the project "Crossing boundaries with New Media"

Students in Germany and Poland and interested institutions have the opportunity to record its own GPS adventure-tours and upload on [www.jugend-natur-schau-spiel.com](http://www.jugend-natur-schau-spiel.com). With these GPS tours the nature and projects of sustainable development can be presented for tourists, hikers or cyclists.

<sup>1</sup> Sponsored by the German Federal Environmental Foundation DBU (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt) and Interreg IV.



## German and Polish Students cross boundaries with New Media

Ecological problems like the preservation of biological diversity, the protection and the networking of habitats, water pollution control or nature tourism does not stop at borders. They can be made sustainable only in the context of international cooperation.

It is an object to actively involve German and Polish students in the sustainable development of Poland and Germany; that means:

- Qualifications of the students to understand substantive issues
- Provision of modern digital tools and methods for the study, presentation and communication of issues of SD
- Development of awareness and skills for international cooperation



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