



GREEN has never been this close!

The Dutch ICT platform GroenGelinkt improves the access to activities and teaching materials in the field of nature, environment and sustainability. By doing this, GroenGelinkt also brings sustainability within reach for a younger generation.

www.groengelinkt.nl

What is GroenGelinkt?

Many Dutch organisations involved in ESD are now associated with GroenGelinkt, hereby enabling thousands of children to enjoy nature and learn about sustainability.

How does GroenGelinkt work?

Teachers, educators, child care providers, parents and grandparents throughout The Netherlands want to enrich their courses, afternoon or outings with local outdoor experiences. With GroenGelinkt, they can easily search across the range of the Netherlands and find what suits them. They can find teaching materials, guest lectures, outdoor activities and venues in the region using the GroenGelinkt search screen.

Many organisations display their ESD supplies

GroenGelinkt ensures that the ESD supply of organisations such as the local visitor centre, the rural nature museum, the municipality or the regional environmental education centre is available and accessible for everyone. The GroenGelinkt search screen has been integrated into the websites of all these organisations, making their own supply and the supply of their fellow providers available everywhere.

Linked by GroenGelinkt

An example: if a teacher finds a suitable product through the GroenGelinkt search screen, he can click through to the website of the organisation offering that product. He can then borrow or buy the materials or book the activity directly from the provider.

Quality

All teaching materials can be presented to a group of selected ESD experts. The experts then assess the quality of the material and provide it with an 'expert score'. In addition, users of lessons and activities can rate the materials and activities using a simple star system (1-5 stars). This way GroenGelinkt helps to improve the quality of ESD.



Search screen

The GroenGelinkt search screen

In Practice

To ensure the searchability and findability of the ESD supply in GroenGelinkt, all providers must enter their products and services in the same way. This requires ESD providers to use descriptive metadata. Metadata is entered by adding descriptive tags to the offer. For example, when adding metadata to an activity, a provider could add 'location', 'place', 'time', but also the 'theme of the activity' as tags. Teaching materials can be described using other tags such as 'audience', 'theme' and 'methods'. These metadata fields have been defined in the European context.

The user can then search through GroenGelinkt using filters. These search filters have been determined in collaboration with the end-users (e.g. teachers and daycare staff) to make sure that the filters optimally match their search behaviour.

Adding metadata in the input area of GroenGelinkt is easy. Providers will find step by step instructions leading them through the input process, there is a manual available and organisations can contact the servicedesk or take a short course.

An example

GroenGelinkt is the national online information hub for ESD in The Netherlands. It is not a portal in the traditional sense. GroenGelinkt gathers information about ESD from a wide range of online and offline sources and combines it into one well organised user friendly data stream. ESD providers can use this data stream through a set of easily implementable search widgets (also provided by GroenGelinkt) to enrich their own websites.



Integrated search screen

An example of the search screen integrated into a website

About GroenGelinkt

GroenGelinkt is a part of the “DuurzaamDoor” Program of the Dutch Government. Numerous Dutch partners involved in Education for Sustainable Development are currently collaborating on this initiative.

GroenGelinkt improves the access to and dissemination of the Dutch supply of education in the field of nature, environment and sustainability. An information platform has been developed on which all organisations can make their ESD products widely available. This digital platform can be integrated into existing websites, making all the information universally available and easy to find.

GroenGelinkt is the best and most complete IT platform for ESD users and providers. The user can find anything from courses to activities and venues. In addition, GroenGelinkt enables ESD organisations to optimally offer their services on their own websites as well as through new channels.

Check our video: <http://youtu.be/BGS4-vRGNsk>

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