

SEED
Studio for Ecoaesthetic Education
Salzburg University of Education

www.seedcentre.org

Growing Minds

SEED is planned as a cooperative project between Salzburg's universities that aims to develop a teaching and research focus that provides students with knowledge and practical experience in the field of ecological aesthetics and its mediation, initiates artistic projects, has an impact on the public and builds up an international network.

SEED will consist of three pillars:

The Garden Lab

functions as an interdisciplinary learning environment and platform for artistic (research) projects. As a place of ecological education, the Garden Lab raises awareness of human-environment relations, climate-conscious action, and the sustainable use of resources. In social terms, the focus is on the experience of self-efficacy in joint planning, implementation, and maintenance. As an artistically designed space, the garden conveys an elementary aesthetic in which conceptual work, bodily practice, and sensual experience are combined. Orientation for the establishment of the Garden Lab is provided by comparable initiatives at European art colleges with which partnerships are being sought: for example, the Art Research Garden at Goldsmiths' College London or the garden of the Center for Arts and Ecology at the Academy of Art, Architecture, and Design (UMPRUM) in Prag.

A public lecture and workshop series,

to which international guests are invited, presents annually changing focus themes and concentrates on the interrelationships of art and ecology, sustainability, climate, natural aesthetics, education, urbanism, architecture, material science, and other relevant fields.

A teaching programme on ecological-aesthetic topics

is to expand the curricula of the participating universities. Existing competences are to be used and events opened up to students from all institutions. The long-term goal is to stabilise the programme by creating corresponding teaching and research positions, which – depending on their focus (theory, practice, education) – would be anchored at the University of Salzburg, the Mozarteum University or the Salzburg University of Education.

Network

Crucial to the success of the project is the establishment of a network of partner institutions that can be used for practical cooperation, best practice, the exchange of teachers and students, and to attract lecture guests. In Austria, the Ökolog Network for Education and Sustainability and the Natur im Garten initiative will be the first points of contact. International institutions with which partnerships will gradually be established are the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society at the University of Munich, the Zurich University of the Arts (study focus Artistic Practice. Art, Education and Ecology), the Jan van Eyck Academie Maastricht (Nature Research Department), the Sandberg Instituut Amsterdam (Planetary Poetics study and research area), Goldsmiths London (MA Art & Ecology), the Art, Biodiversity, and Climate Network at Oxford University, the Yale University Landscape Lab, the Rhode Island School of Design Nature Lab, or the Centre for Garden-Based Learning at Cornell University.

Funding

Third-party funding is to be obtained for all three project pillars – Garden Lab, lectures, teaching programme. The interdisciplinary character of SEED allows for funding applications in the fields of environment, climate and sustainability, art and culture as well as science and education. In addition to municipal funding (Scientists-in-Residence, Artists-in-Residence, Salzburg 2050), state funding (Salzburger Bildungslabore) and federal funding, European funding channels such as Erasmus+, Horizon Europe and Creative Europe are of particular interest. For accompanying scientific research, funding can be applied for via the FWF and the OeAD.

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