

Natuurpunt: 15 years educating people to love nature

Title

This year 'Natuurpunt Educatie', the education branch of Natuurpunt (BirdLife in Belgium), celebrates its 15th anniversary. The tradition of environmental education in Belgium is much older, however; the institution dealing with these issues which was to merge with Natuurpunt in 2001 was already operating in 1935. Environmental education plays a fundamental role teaching how natural environments function and, particularly, how human beings can manage their behaviour and ecosystems in order to live sustainably. 'Learning together', Natuurpunt's education programme, focuses on the organisation of outdoor activities for local groups and communities. Over the years educational activities have noticeably widened in scope, including the global biodiversity crisis, climate change and sustainable development. This development requires a new approach, with innovative educational methods to address those new themes and involving new target groups. Most of all, nature education is about people. Together we have to 'invent' new ways of living with our planet and our biodiversity. Nature conservation organisations can play an important role in involving people to protect our environment, and that's why in the coming years Natuurpunt Educatie will persistently invest in training volunteers and supporters. Source: BirdLife in Europe Newsletter
