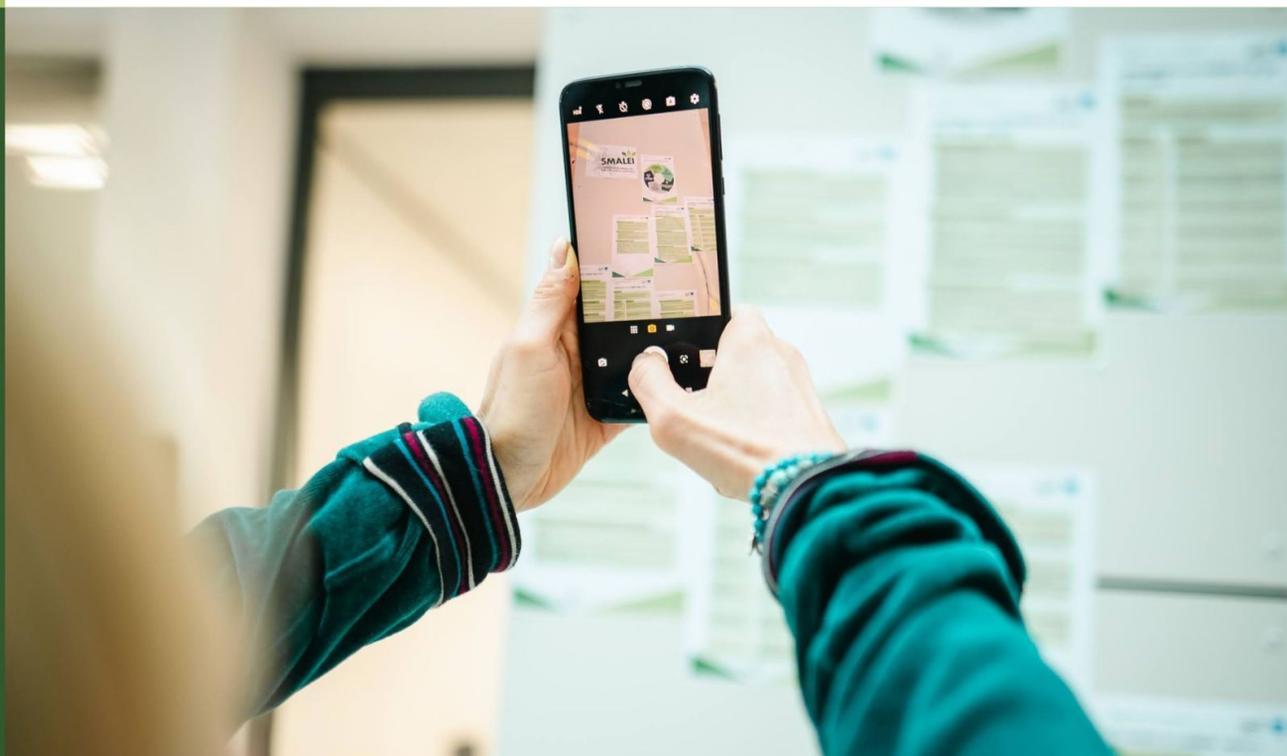




Volkshochschulverband
Baden-Württemberg

Case Report on the piloting of SMALEI in vhs BW



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Mobility for Sustainability

A European training offer
for staff in Adult Education
on ecological sustainability in educational contexts
- based on the SMALEI matrix

Synopsis

vhs BW has prototyped a European training on ecological sustainability in adult education, based on the SMALEI Matrix as well as on related tools and concepts. A pilot training took place in Bregenz/Austria in June 2024.

Introduction

vhs BW is the association of the 160 Volskschochschulen (vhs / adult education centres of municipalities and districts) of the German Bundesland Baden-Württemberg. Among other tasks, vhs BW offers trainings to staff of the vhs and supports the schools' strategical development. Trainings and strategical processes are often combined.

One of the SMALEI matrix areas refers to the "Green skills of trainers and staff". vhs BW decided to focus on prototyping and piloting in this area since skills development among the 35,000 trainers and staff promises most sustainable impacts on all levels of a school and it is key to achieve the actual implementation of activities.

Thus, vhs BW developed and offered a training on ecological sustainability in adult education in Bregenz/Austria, based on the SMALEI Matrix as well as on related tools and concepts. The training was organized in the form of a European mobility activity. It not only provided information and inspiration based on information. It also comprised an exchange between Austrian and German stakeholders on ecological sustainability in general and in (educational) organisations in particular.

Description of the training offer

The training offer in Bregenz/Austria is part of the SMALEI Matrix five phase implementation process. It covers phase 1 "Buildúing a common understanding".

The two-day workshop concept comprises

- activating exercises that make participants reflect on their relation to nature, protection of the environment and ecological sustainability (e g biographical painting according to Elisabeth A. Lange),
- keynote inputs on issues around sustainability (sustainability in a hotel, biodiversity and entrepreneurial thinking, and sustainability as a whole institution approach in a museum),
- reflection activities like outdoor nature walking dialogues in pairs each discussing a common environmental issue, and last not least
- activating excercises making the participants think about sustainable adult education in a dream world.

The prototyping will be transferred to a permanent offer in the context of the "vhs BW strategy 2035" that comprises ecological systainability as one of its strategical goals. Most vhs schools that participate in phase 1 of the SMALEI Matrix process will also participate and carry out the process phases 2 to 5 individually or in groups. The vhs BW association provides moderators that run the process. The toolbox with the agenda, documentations, material based on the SMALEI matrix workbook, and a film is available.



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