

BSR Eagle

Collaboration between Nature Schools
around the Baltic Sea



Project part-financed
by the European Union



PHOTO: HELGE RUBIN



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BSR Eagle

BSR Eagle is an international project that primarily involves nature schools, national parks and nature centres. Altogether, 50 different partners are taking part in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Germany and Denmark. The participation of most countries is funded by the EU, but Norway and Russia are funding their participation nationally.

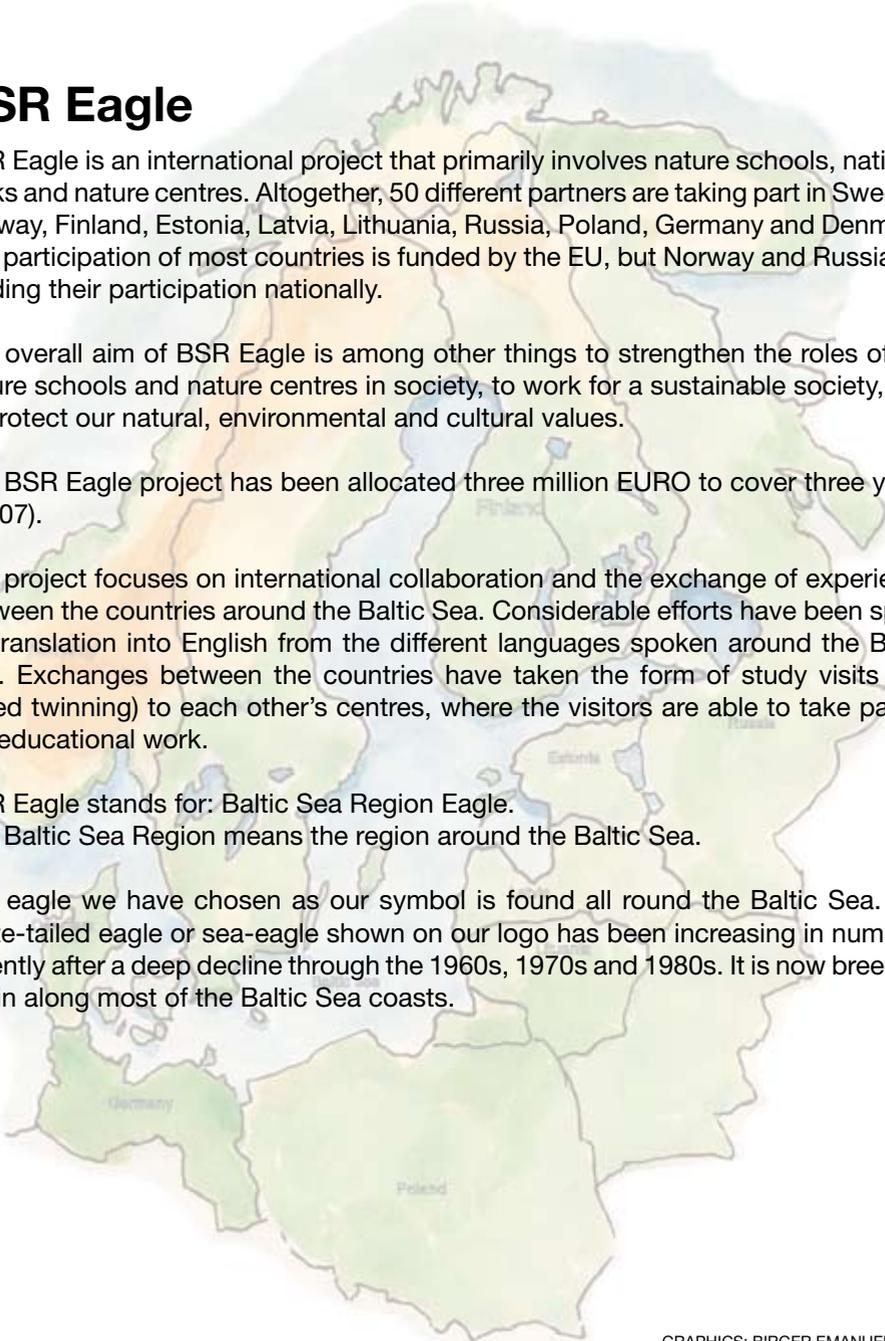
The overall aim of BSR Eagle is among other things to strengthen the roles of the nature schools and nature centres in society, to work for a sustainable society, and to protect our natural, environmental and cultural values.

The BSR Eagle project has been allocated three million EURO to cover three years (04-07).

The project focuses on international collaboration and the exchange of experience between the countries around the Baltic Sea. Considerable efforts have been spent on translation into English from the different languages spoken around the Baltic Sea. Exchanges between the countries have taken the form of study visits (so-called twinning) to each other's centres, where the visitors are able to take part in the educational work.

BSR Eagle stands for: Baltic Sea Region Eagle.
The Baltic Sea Region means the region around the Baltic Sea.

The eagle we have chosen as our symbol is found all round the Baltic Sea. The white-tailed eagle or sea-eagle shown on our logo has been increasing in numbers recently after a deep decline through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. It is now breeding again along most of the Baltic Sea coasts.



GRAPHICS: BIRGER EMANUELSSON



PHOTO: URBAN EMANUELSSON

Websites with more information

- ❖ www.bsreagle.net
The BSR Eagle project
- ❖ www.natur.pedc.se/index.asp?IDnr=1545
The Malmö School of Nature information page, with links to the web addresses of all participants in the BSR Eagle project.
- ❖ www.naturskola.se
The Association of Nature Schools in Sweden
- ❖ www.natur-vejleder.dk/
Danish Ranger Association
(The counterpart of the Association of Nature Schools in Sweden)
- ❖ www.sykse.net
The Finnish Association for Environmental Education
- ❖ www.dabasmuzejs.gov.lv/en/about_us/history/
The Natural History Museum in Riga. The museum serves as the driving force of nature conservation work and nature education in Latvia.
- ❖ www.wild-russia.org/html/tour.htm
Russian national parks and the Zapovedniks (strictly protected reserves).

The Association of Nature Schools in Sweden

The Association of Nature Schools in Sweden is an interest group linking the Swedish nature schools (about 85) and others interested in outdoor educational methods.



**The Association of
Nature Schools in Sweden**

A nature school is not a building or a place, but a method of working. The guiding principle for this method of working is "learning outdoors". It implies that all school subjects can be learnt outdoors in the school playground or in the countryside. The way the pupils learn naturally to relate to nature following on from our environmental questions is a positive side effect, since the environments is a topic that must be integrated into the various school subject areas. Another positive side effect is that physical activity is increased without increasing the amount of time required for lessons.

The Association organises courses and disseminates knowledge and experience about outdoor teaching methods to its members through its website, Internet newsletters and its magazine, Bladet (Leaf or leaflet), which comes out four times a year. The Association also provides support for municipalities that wish to start nature schools.

BSR Eagle in the Swedish Association of Nature Schools

An issue of Bladet came out in English during the project period, and was circulated among all the participants in the BSR Eagle project. Information about the project has also been passed on to the Swedish members through the Associations information channels.

With the help of key people from the BSR Eagles project, several newly started nature schools in southern Sweden have been given advice and help to start up. Our international network has also been useful to a number of Swedish nature schools who needed contact people in the other countries round the Baltic Sea.



PHOTO: MALMÖ SCHOOL OF NATURE

More nature schools in Sweden

The objectives of the BSR Eagle project

- ❖ To create a major network around the Baltic Sea.
- ❖ To increase the general public's awareness of the special problems of the Baltic Sea.
- ❖ To focus on shared school projects that are being implemented at the same time and in the same way around the Baltic Sea, to increase understanding of the Baltic Sea as an inland sea.
- ❖ To develop the outdoor teaching methods in the nature schools.
- ❖ To give decision makers knowledge of the nature schools' teaching methods.
- ❖ To stimulate municipalities to start nature schools.

Collaboration across borders

There is a marine network within the BSR Eagle project, consisting of participants from Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Sweden. Network meetings are held to exchange experience and skills between nature school teachers from the different countries. The aim in developing the teaching principles is to improve the knowledge acquired by the pupils at school and the public about marine environments around the Baltic Sea.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

- Marine workshop in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 2005, in Malmö, Sweden, June 2006, and in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 2007.
- Helsinki, Finland, Sustainable development through education, June 2005.
- Lüneburger Heide, Germany, October 2005.
- Bobolice, Poland, 6-7 May 2006.
- Uddevalla, Sweden, Learning by physical activity, 9-10 October 2006.
- Tartu, Estonia, concluding conference, 9-10 May 2007.

TWINNING

- **Store Mosse National park** collaborates with Zemaitija National Park in Lithuania.
- **Nature School Nynäshamn** collaborates with Harakka Nature Centre, Pikkutikka Nature Centre, the Youth Nature House in Finland, the Environmental Education Centre in Tartu, Sagadi Nature School, Alatskivi Nature House in Estonia, and the Øresund Environmental Academy and Raadvad Nature School in Denmark.
- **The Malmö School of Nature** collaborates with the Øresund Environmental Academy in Copenhagen, Denmark, the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve in northern Latvia and the Natural History Museum in Riga and the Nijne-Svirsky zapovednik (national park) in western Russia.
- **The Nature School in Uddevalla** cooperates with various partners in Latvia: Kuldīga Environmental Education School, Gauja National Park and the Natural History Museum of Latvia.



PHOTO: MALMÖ SCHOOL OF NATURE



FOTO: HELGE RUBIN



FOTO: ROBERT LÄTTMAN



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Store Mosse National Park

Store Mosse National Park in south-west Sweden has an area of almost 8 000 hectares, and is the largest bog complex in Sweden south of Lapland. Store Mosse was declared a national park in 1982 to protect the rich bird life and the huge, almost virgin bogland. Around 100 000 visitors come each year.

The nature centre in the national park (shown below) is a centre to gather inspiration and acquire knowledge, as well as a meeting place for those interested in nature. The nature centre also provides support for the work of the nature schools on the region. We welcome school classes and teachers to activities at the nature centre. There are also good facilities for bird watching from the bird tower at Kävsjön and for nature study along our information trails.

BSR Eagle in Store Mosse

We have conducted further education courses in outdoor teaching methods for teachers, partly in the nature centre, and partly in the countryside around the teachers' own schools.

There are over 40 kilometres of hiking trails in the national park. To enhance the experience of the countryside, and not least for the benefit of visitors from abroad, we have compiled handbooks for walkers in Swedish, English and German. We are also running an exchange project with the Zemaitija national park in Lithuania to exchange experience. We have visited each other's parks and discussed different solutions to the common problems.

PHOTO: MARTHA WAGEUS



Nature School in Nynäshamn

Nature School Nynäshamn is situated about 60 kilometres south of Stockholm, and accommodates children and pupils aged between 4 and 16 years from the Municipality of Nynäshamn. Each school year has its own theme, such as insects, the senses, or antique technology.

We believe that outdoor teaching can play an important part in learning for sustainable development. The nature school works both with sensitivity to nature and with factual knowledge about nature and the environment.

BSR Eagle in Nynäshamn

Nature School Nynäshamn exchanges experiences (through twinning) of working towards sustainable development and outdoor education with Harakka Nature Centre, Pikkutikka Nature Centre, the Youth Nature House in Finland, the Environmental Education Centre in Tartu, Sagadi Nature School, Alatskivi Nature House in Estonia, and the Øresund Environmental Academy and Raadvad Nature School in Denmark.

We develop outdoor teaching methods and biological themes which schools and nature schools can work with. Ten booklets, which can be considered as chapters in a future larger volume, are being translated into English so that they can be circulated to all participants in the project. The aim is to develop outdoor teaching methods to enable more schools around the Baltic Sea to work towards sustainable development. The following publications are being translated, and will in time become available from our English language website and the BSR Eagles website:

Project handbooks, theme weeks and check lists

Toilet Etiquette
The Exploding Mailbox
Sustainable Development Week
Preschool Checklist
School Checklist

Theme booklets

Wetland grade 6
Wetland grade 9
Bugs
Feeding Winterbirds
The Magpie
The Squirrel
The Senses
Antique Technology
Fire
Winter Ecology



PHOTO: ROBERT LÄTTMAN



PHOTO: HELENE GRANTZ

The nature and culture school in Uddevalla

The majority of the activities are organised in the old farm at Åleslån on the mountainside at Herrestad. Here it is possible to learn and experience through all the senses what life was like in earlier centuries, and about nature and outdoor life. We also run school activities by the sea, and we can in addition visit the school or kindergarten and set up a nature school in their home environment. We work both with school classes and with the further education of staff.

BSR Eagle in Uddevalla

A nature trail has been set up with information boards in Swedish and English, giving details of natural and cultural history around Åleslån. We are also developing educational methods by the seashore. We draw inspiration and support from the BSR Eagles marine network.

Uddevalla is the first municipality in Sweden with an environmental management system approved according to EMAS. It is therefore a part of our assignment to support schools and kindergartens in their work towards sustainable development. We will also pass it on to others through this project.

Everyone feels good after exercise, and it also promotes the learning process. We have therefore started a network which we have called Movement in Learning, which is charged with providing documentation and spreading good examples of how physical activity can be used in different subjects. In addition, we have drawn up information material in printed form for the nature school movement, and we are also developing our website. Here visitors can find, among other things, an idea bank with about 100 suggestions for lessons and how to make use of physical activity in different subjects. In the BSR Eagle project we collaborate chiefly with Latvia. We have exchanged visits with Gauja National Park, Kuldīga Environmental School and Latvian Museum of Natural History.

Nature School in Malmö

Malmö School of Nature serves the schools in the town of Malmö. We arrange days out for the pupils and supplementary training for teachers, and we collaborate with a number of other municipal authorities. Our objective is that the children and youth of Malmö should gain insights through their own experiences on nature's own terms. Malmö School of Nature also works to promote greener school playground environments and supports teaching in the near neighbourhood of the schools.

BSR Eagle in Malmö

Malmö School of Nature has entered into collaboration with several other Nature Schools and national parks around the Baltic Sea.

These included the North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve in Latvia, the Bobolice nature reserve in Poland, Nijne Svirsky Zapovednik in Russia and the Øresund Environment Academy in Denmark. Together with the Øresund Environment Academy we have organised two international marine workshops.

In our local area, we have joined with the leisure facilities administration and the real estate office in Malmö to continue developing the largest recreational area in Malmö, at Torup. A woodland playground has been added, as well as a walking trail for the partially sighted, walking trails for the disabled and improved maps and brochures.

We have also set up a website on which the names of 600 different animal species have been translated into all nine languages spoken in the region.



PHOTO: HELGE RUBIN

Names and addresses of nature schools and national parks taking part in BSR Eagle

The Association of Nature Schools in Sweden

c/o Stina Lindblad, Lydinge Grindstugan, SE-747 94 ALUNDA

Store Mosse National park

SE-330 33 Hillerstorp

phone: +46 (0)370-237 92

e-mail: martha.wageus@f.lst.se or storemosse@f.lst.se

Nature School in Nynäshamn

Nynäshamns Kommun, Viaskolan/Naturskolan, SE-149 81 NYNÄSHAMN

phone: +46 (0)8-520 73 709, fax: +46 (0)8-520 38 590

e-mail: mats.wejdmark@naturskolan.pp.se

website: www.nynashamn.se/natursko

Nature School in Malmö

Malmö School of Nature, Pedagogical centre, Rönnbladsgatan 1 B, SE-212 16 MALMÖ

phone: +46 (0)40-34 36 89

e-mail: naturskolan@pub.malmo.se

website: www.natur.pedc.se

Nature School in Uddevalla

Nature and Culture School, Children and Education, Development unit

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e-mail: helene.grantz@uddevalla.se or gunnar.henriksson@skola.uddevalla.se

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The Association of Nature Schools in Sweden is an interest association for people who work with outdoor educational methods. We organise courses and disseminate knowledge and experience among Nature Schools through our website, Internet newsletters and a magazine, which comes out four times a year. We also provide support for municipalities that wish to start nature schools.

The Association of Nature Schools in Sweden website: www.naturskola.se

