

Ecosystem Services Case Studies

André Tiemann

LET'S GET TOGETHER – Integration days

29.06.2022: Symposium international education: insights & outlook

Outline

- Ecosystem Services Case Study module in a nutshell
- Introduction of an exemplary case study: Edible Zittau

Ecosystem Services Case Study module in a nutshell

Core elements of the module	Qualification objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are designing their own, ecosystem services related, research project in small groups• Special emphasis on linking the projects to real-world topics of stakeholders from the region	<p>Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• independently develop a research topic with practical relevance• plan and conduct the research process• interact with stakeholders on a high professional and social level• present the research project in a way that is appropriate for the target group (stakeholders)
<p>Didactic concept (student- and stakeholder-centred module)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular inputs by lecturer(s) to crucial components of project management (e.g., stakeholder contact, risk management, time management, etc.)• Group exercises that aim at directly transferring lessons learnt into the individual projects• Regularly exchange with stakeholders to consider their needs in the project	

Ecosystem Services Case Studies:

Edible Zittau

Urban edible wild plants in winter

Del Solar Vela, Maria Teresa

González Ramil, Aida

Lopez Ruiz, Celia

Zimdars, Sophie

LET'S GET TOGETHER – Integration days

29.06.2022: Symposium international education: insights & outlook

Project context

- Humans are often not aware of plants in their environment: **plant blindness**
- Wild edible plants provide **ecosystem services**: food provision, cultural, educational and recreational
- More than 1500 species of edible plants exist in Central Europe
- Wild edible plants have the **potential to raise awareness** for the importance of plants but are often not considered in edible city projects



Presentation of the project

Project aim:

- To increase the **knowledge** of the inhabitants about local plants
- To **raise awareness** about their usage and biodiversity

Methods:

- **Manual** for wild edible plants in the winter season – Zittau
- **Workshop** and city tour (virtual):
Stakeholders -> Zittau citizens, experts on related topics
- Preliminary **study**:
Setting bases for potential future studies including city council as stakeholder

Edible Zittau
A manual for wild edible plants in the winter

HOW TO USE

During the collection of pine needles, need to be taken in consideration to do not pick the needles from the young trees, as this could affect their growth. In addition, overuse of pine family trees could develop in a kidney irritation, therefore, should be consumed in moderation. Pine needles can be used in multiple recipes, they can be used fresh or dried.

PINE NEEDLE TEA

Wash the fruits and trim off the tops and bottoms of the fruits. Remove the seeds from the fruits and let the remaining flesh drying to the sun. Once they are dried, you can store them and use them as normal tea whenever you want.

PINE INFUSED OIL

Let the pine needles dry for few days in a cloth, this has the aim to avoid mold due to moisture. Chop the needles (this step is not essential, but it does increase the aroma release) and place them into a jar, close it and locate the jar in a dark and warm place for about one week. As a result, you would get a tasty aromatic pine needle infused oil which makes a perfect salad dressing.

IHI ZITTAU
TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN

Results

- Positive **Feedback** from Project Presentation
- Participants were not able to mention edible plant species when shown places they pass by in their daily life
- Consensus by the participants over the general **lack of knowledge** over wild edible plants in the winter season
- Agreement over the **value of the manual** as an useful tool in the reclamation of healthy and biodiverse urban green spaces by the population



Next steps

Citizens	City council	Transferability
<p>Raise interest in sustainable food.</p> <p>Promotion of outdoor activities.</p> <p>Strengthen connection of citizens with their closest natural environment, decreasing plant blindness.</p> <p>Increase citizen's consciousness of the state of their urban natural environment.</p>	<p>Inspire to incorporate more green and edible plants measures.</p>	<p>Inspire to include wild edible plants in the edible city concept.</p>

Thank you for your attention!

