

## Intervention Benelux

In my intervention, I want to focus on the ESD-efforts made within the Benelux, as a common contribution. Since 2008 sustainable development is one of the topics of the Benelux Union-treaty.

The Benelux-working group Education, Information and Communication for nature, environment and sustainable development started in 2010 with a cycle of three connected conferences organised by three different Beneluxpartners about 'Alimentation and education for sustainable development'. In 2011 we focused on the relationship between biodiversity and alimentation. In 2012 the cycle concluded with a conference on sustainable urban agriculture. As a concrete and final output, two brochures resuming this first common work cycle were developed to inspire people and to perpetuate the process. You can find the brochures – in French and Dutch - here in front. They can also be downloaded.

[http://www.benelux.int/nl/pub/pub\\_eetJeBordLeeg.asp](http://www.benelux.int/nl/pub/pub_eetJeBordLeeg.asp)

[http://www.benelux.int/fr/pub/pub\\_eetJeBordLeeg.asp](http://www.benelux.int/fr/pub/pub_eetJeBordLeeg.asp)

[http://www.benelux.int/nl/pub/pub\\_stadslanbouw.asp](http://www.benelux.int/nl/pub/pub_stadslanbouw.asp).

[http://www.benelux.int/fr/pub/pub\\_stadslanbouw.asp](http://www.benelux.int/fr/pub/pub_stadslanbouw.asp)

Last year within the Benelux we started a new cycle of a three-year collaboration about the topic: 'The transition to a circular economy'. This cycle started in Apeldoorn in the Netherlands. We got introductions to the theme 'Circulaire Economy' by speakers with very different points of view.

We discussed the needed competences, skills and stakeholdergroups; and applied it in practice to approaches and methods. About 80 people attended the conference.

This year we continue the cycle on circular economy in Flanders (Belgium). In Ghent we focus on 'Learning in transition'. The first day we'll critically approach 'learning' and 'transition'. We will discuss the bottom-up transition movements and the top-down transition management approach. The second day of the conference we will visit specific transition projects with a special focus on 'learning' in and around Ghent. We like to debate on these examples together with others involved in transition and learning in the Benelux region. The last day we 'll make the link to a next conference in Luxembourg in 2015, which will focus on transition initiatives taken by citizens. We will also look for possible concerted projects with the Beneluxpartners.

A new digital page is in construction on the website of the Benelux Union ([www.benelux.int](http://www.benelux.int) – it will be launched probably on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April) which will gather all the collected information, practices, projects, ... of this three-years approach at a Benelux-level.

More information about the conference in Ghent/2014?

<http://www.lne.be/journee-ere-et-conference-benelux>

<http://www.lne.be/themas/natuur-en-milieueducatie/nme-evenementen/nme-beneluxconferentie>