

eNaBLS

eNaBLS' Austrian Living Lab

"Landscapes4Future"

Coordinated by BOKU UNIVERSITY

Supported by 3s

eNaBLS is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Connecting Landscape Planning with Real-World Practice

eNaBLS

The Rationale

Integrating biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) into education requires moving beyond theoretical classroom knowledge.

The **Austrian Living Lab** (LL) created a practice-oriented learning platform that connects landscape planning students with municipalities, landowners, and local actors. By treating NBS as a boundary-spanning concept, the LL addresses real-world land-use conflicts, climate adaptation, trade-offs, and political feasibility in both urban Vienna and rural Lower Austria.

The Core Question

How do we empower future landscape planners & local stakeholders to co-design feasible, long-lasting NBS?

Key Pillars & Goals

- **Real-World Problem Solving:** Linking university courses directly to municipal planning challenges, land ownership, and local financial constraints.
- **Competency-Based Learning:** Utilising GreenComp and ESCO frameworks to develop communication, negotiation, and spatial decision-making skills.
- **Rural & Peri-Urban Focus:** Supporting municipalities with limited staffing and financial resources to address climate adaptation challenges.

Scan for LL updates

eNaBLS is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

From Classroom to Practice

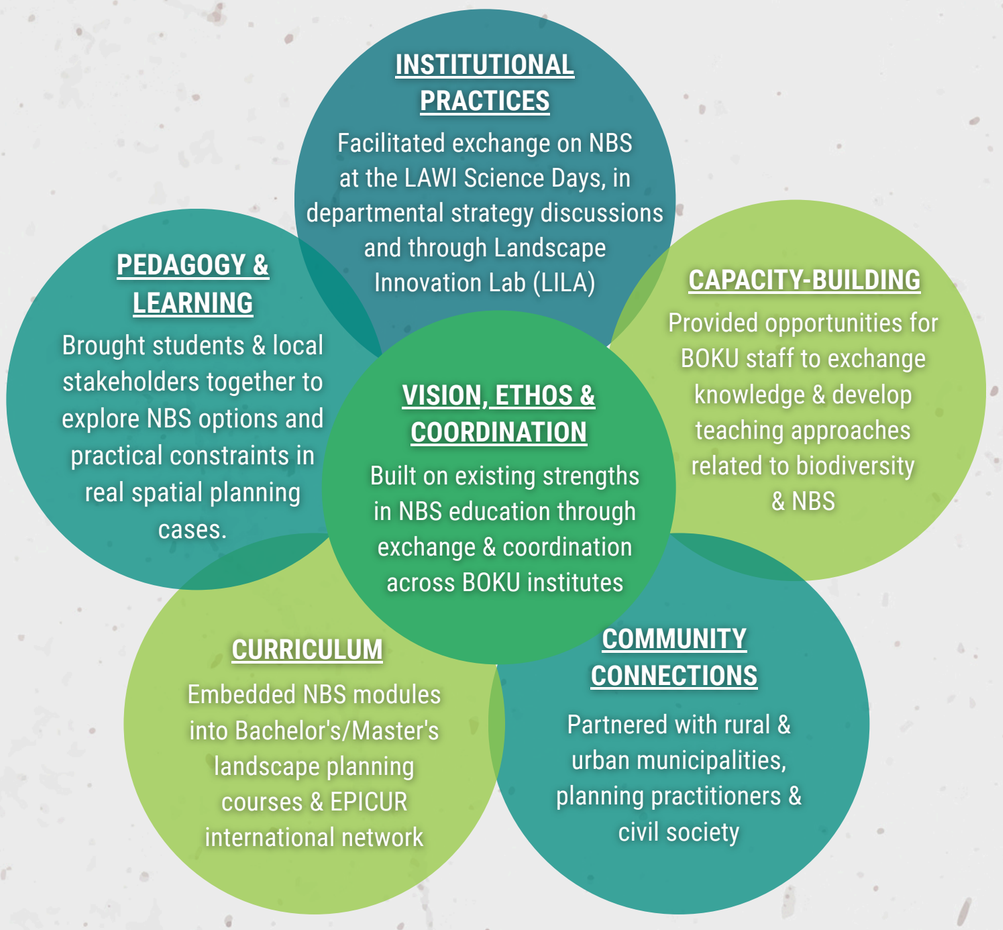
The 3-Phase Implementation Journey

STEP 01 — **Map & Partner:** Mapped existing NBS-related higher education courses across Austria and built initial partnerships with municipalities, BOKU didactics, and professional associations.

STEP 02 — **Experiment & Co-Create:** Integrated real-world rural planning tasks into BOKU Bachelor's and Master's courses, conducted field trips, and organized public Climate Walks in Vienna.

STEP 03 — **Institutionalise & Transfer:** Embedded LL approaches into BOKU's Landscape Innovation Lab (LILA), updated the Master's curriculum, and established ongoing municipal collaboration.

The Whole Institution Approach (WIA)



Scan for LL updates

"Adaptive Experimentation in Practice": Starting with existing BOKU courses and focusing on rural municipalities allowed students to navigate real-world trade-offs, limited staffing and financial resources, and political feasibility - turning NBS theory into supporting mutual learning about the opportunities and constraints of integrating NBS into spatial planning.

eNaBLS is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

National Ecosystem & Strategic Scaling

Core Partner Network



Public Engagement & Cross-Sector Dialogue

- **Children's University & Long Night of Research:** Engaged primary school children and the general public using interactive GIS, VR landscape simulations, and courtyard habitat redesigns.
- **Policy & TVET Dialogue:** Facilitated cross-sector workshops with 3s, municipal authorities, and vocational educators to identify shared competency needs and implementation barriers.

Institutional Anchoring

Embedded LL methods, VR visualisation tools & stakeholder co-creation directly into BOKU's permanent Landscape Innovation Lab.

Long-Term Legacy

Sustainable Municipal Networks

Created self-reinforcing relationships & course modules that generate ongoing requests from Austrian municipalities for nature-based spatial planning.

Scan for LL updates

eNaBLS is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Funded by
the European Union

Visit the webpage of the Austrian Living Lab

www.enabls.eu /enabls-eu /enabls.eu @enabls_eu @enabls-eu.bsky.social @enabls_eu @eNaBIS-eu