

eNaBLS

eNaBLS' Dutch Living Lab

Coordinated by WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

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Nurturing Nature-Positive Mindsets in Higher Education

eNaBLS

The Rationale

Transitioning to Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) requires more than technical training - it demands a fundamental transformation in basic human-nature relationships.

The **Dutch Living Lab** created an experimental co-creation space to explore Nature-Inclusive Education (NiE) and Nature-Based Thinking (NBT), moving beyond standard cognitive skills to foster a felt connection to nature, active hope, and deep personal value shifts.

The Core Question

How do we nurture nature-positive mindsets among university staff and students?

Key Pillars & Goals

- **Education as an NBS:** Viewing nature-inclusive learning itself as an NBS that supports mental health, well-being, motivation, and climate action.
- **Beyond Cognitive Learning:** Complementing frameworks like GreenComp and ESCO by focusing on relationality, care, curiosity, and emotional resilience.
- **Institutional Transformation:** Embedding nature-inclusive principles across the entire university ecosystem - from curriculum to outdoor spaces.

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Implementation & Campus Practice

The 3-Phase Implementation Journey

STEP 01

Co-Define & Engage: Partnered with core stakeholders to establish shared goals and form Whole Institution Approach (WIA) action groups.

STEP 02

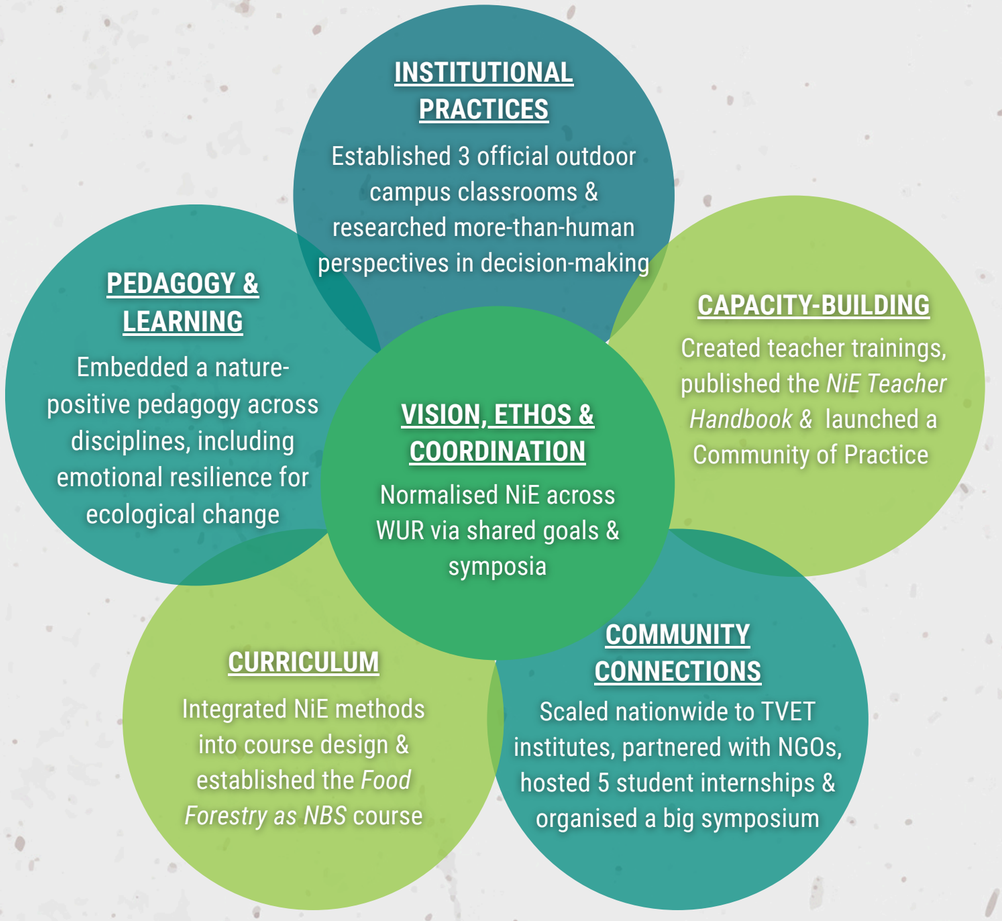
Piloting of Teacher Training modules: Launched a new student course on *Food Forestry as NBS*, and organised a 150-participant national symposium.

STEP 03

Institutionalise & Disseminate: Permanent integration of 6-session teacher trainings, publication of the NiE Teacher Handbook, and creation of 3 outdoor campus classrooms.

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The Whole Institution Approach (WIA)



"Start Local, Scale Organically": Beginning with small, concrete pilots at WUR clearly demonstrated the value of NiE. This created natural enthusiasm & organic demand from higher education & TVET institutions across the Netherlands.

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National Ecosystem & Strategic Scaling

eNaBLS

Core Partner Network

natuurCollege

Re·Ge·NL naar rendabele regeneratieve landbouw

COLLECTIEF NATUURINCLUSIEF



Wageningen Pre-University

Cross-Sector Outreach

- **Deltaplan Biodiversiteitsherstel & Green Deal:** Co-led the *Warming Up to Biodiversity* working group, bringing together 30+ teachers from primary, TVET, and higher education.
- **TVET Outreach:** Extended training programmes to 10+ vocational institutions to embed nature-inclusive education in vocational training.

Long-Term Legacy



Established an institutional narrative & structure for nature-positive mindsets



Established self-sustaining teacher networks & training cycles that will continue beyond eNaBLS' lifespan

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