

## Reading a book and understanding it

Libraries as well small “street-libraries” like the BookboXX are innovative models of sustainability. Access to books is simplified. Opportunity creates readers, particularly for vocational education apprentices. All age-groups benefit, mostly kids and youth. In the vicinity of the BookboXX, readings and lectures are organized with actors and writers. Literature days get scheduled by schools. A very special example are the topic oriented readings at the “BookboXX at Track 17” a memorial of deportation of Jews at track 17 in Berlin-Grunewald. Invited were for example: Inge Deutch-kron, Jenny Schily, Martin Heinz Ehlert, Ilona Zeuch-Wiese, Katharina Ehrlicher, Helga Schubert, Hans Croiset, Heinrich von der Haar.



Innovative formats, for example „Poetry Slam“ and „Graphic Novel“ invite and initiate own cultural expressions and writing. A 16-page bookboXX Journal informs about develop-ments inside and outside the BookboXX network und opens for the literature circle a platform and invites and generates creative, phantastic texts, observations, impressions and associations.



Bookcrossing a worldwide movement for book-exchanging (tra-velling books) is a continuing companion of BookboXXes.

## Poltical Education

Sustainability is always also political. The BookboXXes presented below, selected on the basis of their actuality and the topics covered, as well as, for their location or the theme of the book show clearly their relation to the subject of political education.



**BücherboXX at the memorial „Track 17“**  
How can anybody learn something about the atrocities and deportations in Nazi times? In one BookboXX a testimonial witness descri-bes her experiences. Accordingly the outer-design were designed. One shelf was identi-fied for books which represent issues around this commemoration of Jewish life, perse-cution, Nazi-times, racism.



**BücherboXX ColdWar – Berlin Airlift**  
Vocational training students of the “Berliner Stadtreinigung” (BSR) have selected the historical site of the Tempelhof Airfield for ex-hibiting their BookboXX. The topic is the heavily disputed future usage „free-space“ of the old airport area and its political rele-vance. The symbol of the airlift in 1948 be-came the center of discussions for the design of the BoXX.



**BücherboXX Europa**  
This BoXX was designed on the occasion of the European Parliamentary Elections in May 2014. The learning field covers the diversity of European literature up to such questions as: „Why should I go to elections?“ and „Why should Europe become sustainable?“  
Presently the BoXX is located in front of the House of the Trade union of Education and Science (GEW) in Berlin.



**BücherboXX Mauerfall – The falling of the “Berlin wall”**  
In form of artistic impressions like „Graphic Novel“, a new chapter of BoXX design came to light. In „Shifting Sands“ (Treibsand) artists and historians tell the story of the last days of the German Democratic Republic (DDR). Some image sequences decorate with transparent foils the BookboXX, which in this way contributes to the commemoration/celebrations after 25 years.

## The Stakeholders

People and Partner involved

Coordination, management, contact:  
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## Schools and vocational training centers



## Cooperation Partners



## Local partners



## Sustainable learning–BookboXX

vocational – cultural – political



The BookboXX is an endeavour, which contributes to vocational training. Students from different fields and locations of learning contribute by transforming out-dated telephone-boxes into community-building local public book exchanges. In this process they acquire competencies which support sustainable long-range, big-picture strategies and goals for their work and in everyday life. Additionally cultur and political are taken into consideration, as well as the participatory inclusion of future users in their urban districts, where the boXXes will be located. In this type of education a new method of transdisciplinary learning is applied. The concept of the BookboXX refers to a new economy of sharing, empowering sustainable life-styles.



## A project in the field of Vocational Training

Various occupations and learning-centers can contribute by their specific focuses.



Trainees design the shelving with integrated lighting.



Artists contribute a convincing design.



Close collaboration ensures competence by linking the various vocational fields. Artists and testimonial witnesses.

- mechatronics technicians
- product designers
- painters/ varnishers
- carpenters and joiners
- electronics specialists
- garden- and landscape designers
- logistics specialists
- market- and opinion researchers



Trainees install the solar panel on rooftops



Carpenters install benches and the BookboXX itself

## Sustainability

The educational concept of the BookboXX encompasses various aspects of social, ecological, economic and cultural sustainability. Pragmatic approaches of various professions are brought together to form a meaningful whole. Sustainability is gaining substance, is becoming more understandable and losing its abstract formulation.

- reuse and recycling
- project oriented and learning for many professions
- resource efficiency
- Photovoltaics: decentral, renewable energy production and use
- wood from leftovers and from certified sources
- participation
- Civil Social responsibility
- Experience in a new sharing, exchanging and gift economy
- improved career chances and possibilities for professional development
- motivation to read books



Sustainable effects are also created by cultural and political aspects, when artists and testimonial witnesses are involved, when the commemoration of historical events/instances is kept alive and a negotiation and exchange of instances takes place. Examples are the monument at “Track 17” where the deportation of Jews took place, the air-bridge monument at Tempelhof, the Europe Day and the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the falling of the Berlin wall.

Bring a book – take a book – read a book

## A Success-story

The concept of the BookboXX emerged over four years step by step. Towards the end of the UNESCO Decade for Sustainability Education (DESD) 15 BookboXXes are actually installed. Two of them were built in co-operation with French partners. The involvement of youth and apprentice caused a lot of enthusiasm and many positive learning experiences. The idea of sharing, exchanging, and donating. Such applied practical sustainability has been well received in the communities/neighbourhoods. The voluntary engagement of attending and servicing is growing steadily.

The BookboXX was awarded twice the honor of being an official project of the UN- Decade of education for sustainability. Other awards and competition successes followed. Press and media, radio and television covered the project.



Several high-level congresses invited the bookboXX for presentation and to show how sustainability works in education and civil society.



The professional education schools and institutions and local and regional partners took pride and benefitted from this sustainable development.

Vocational expertise is very close connected with social and ecological sustainability.



View on three BookboXXes as a result of the german-french cooperation.

## Cooperation with France



A German telephone box was refurbished in France and two French boxes were rebuild in Berlin. Students from both countries have worked and learned together for three weeks in Poissy Guingamp and Berlin. The project is an initiative of the Maison de l'Europe des Yvelines and of the Centre Français de Berlin and was supported by the German-French youth organization, the French Telecom ORANGE donated two telephone boxes.

The yellow „BiblioboXX“ was inaugurated and received great public attention in September 2013 in the Académie de Versailles and is now situated in front of the castle Maisons-Laffitte in the departement Yvelines. A French BoXX can be found since April 2013 in front of the Centre Français à Berlin-Wedding. Another - at the “upperlevel-center TIEM”. The international co-operation opens vistas for a new dimension in the field of education for sustainable development.

