

# Re-Enactment of History: Flax Production

The Project „Landscape and You-th“

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# „Tracing Flax“

## History of Flax Production in the Lesachtal Valley



# The Project

- Research Programme „Sparkling Science“/  
Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and  
Research: Funding transdisciplinary projects:  
Science co-operating with schools
- „Landscape and You-th“:
  - Interdisciplinary (Sociology, Landscape Planning,  
Botany, History, Media Science)
  - Transdisciplinary (Science, Schools, Municipality,  
Culture and Garden Associations)

# „Tracing Flax“

- Oral History: schoolkids interview elderly locals
- En-actment of history: growing flax, oil press, „Brecheln“, „Hacheln“, spin and weave

- App / Blog:

[http://lesachtalerflachs.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/flachs\\_as\\_sommer05.jpg](http://lesachtalerflachs.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/flachs_as_sommer05.jpg)

# History of Flax

Flax: *linum usitatissimum*

- Seeds → Oil
- Fibres → Textiles / Linnen

App. more than 6.000 years

Peak of production:

17th – mid 20th century



# Landscapes

- Geomorphology of Alpine Valleys
- Land distribution of medieval colonisation: Flax was grown in small fields (half acre)

<http://www.st-lorenzen.at/www/cms/node/30>

- Dynamic change: loss of alpine meadows and of biological and cultural diversity. Reduction of agricultural diversity of cattle breeding, fields turned into pastures and meadows (one – two cuts)



# Co-operation

- Science
  - AAU / IKN
  - Medienwerkstatt
- Schools
  - HLW Hermagor
  - Bildungszentrum Lesachtal / Neue Mittelschule
- The Region
  - Gemeinde Lesachtal - Municipality
  - Kulturverein Lesachtal
  - Kräuterverein Lesachtal





# Aspects of Co-operation

- One municipality, small and socially integrated
- A peripheral and marginalized region
- Rural economy, clearly structured, traditional culture conserved
- A vivid social life (associations, music bands, ...)
- Active culture organisations, school is active in many projects („cultural landscape, local knowledge and language“)
- Lasting and ongoing co-operation of AAU and the Lesach Valley

# | Eine Spurensuche zum Flachs im Lesachtal



# Enactment

- Workshops
  - Oral History
  - Cloister Garden
  - Brecheln
  - Textiles
  - Films
  - Apps

## Landscape and You-th

Flachs-Aussaat im Mai 2013



# Team

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