

PLURI Online course

Languages in focus: From EU policy to Multilingual education

Project PLURI - Plurilingualism for better education, cohesion and linguistic diversity - CERV-2024-CITIZENS-REM-EUINTEGRATION

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The **SPRACHSPINAT**[®] Concept: Combining Language Education and Education for Sustainable Development in a Playful Manner

Presented by

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Languages in Focus: From EU policy to Multilingual education



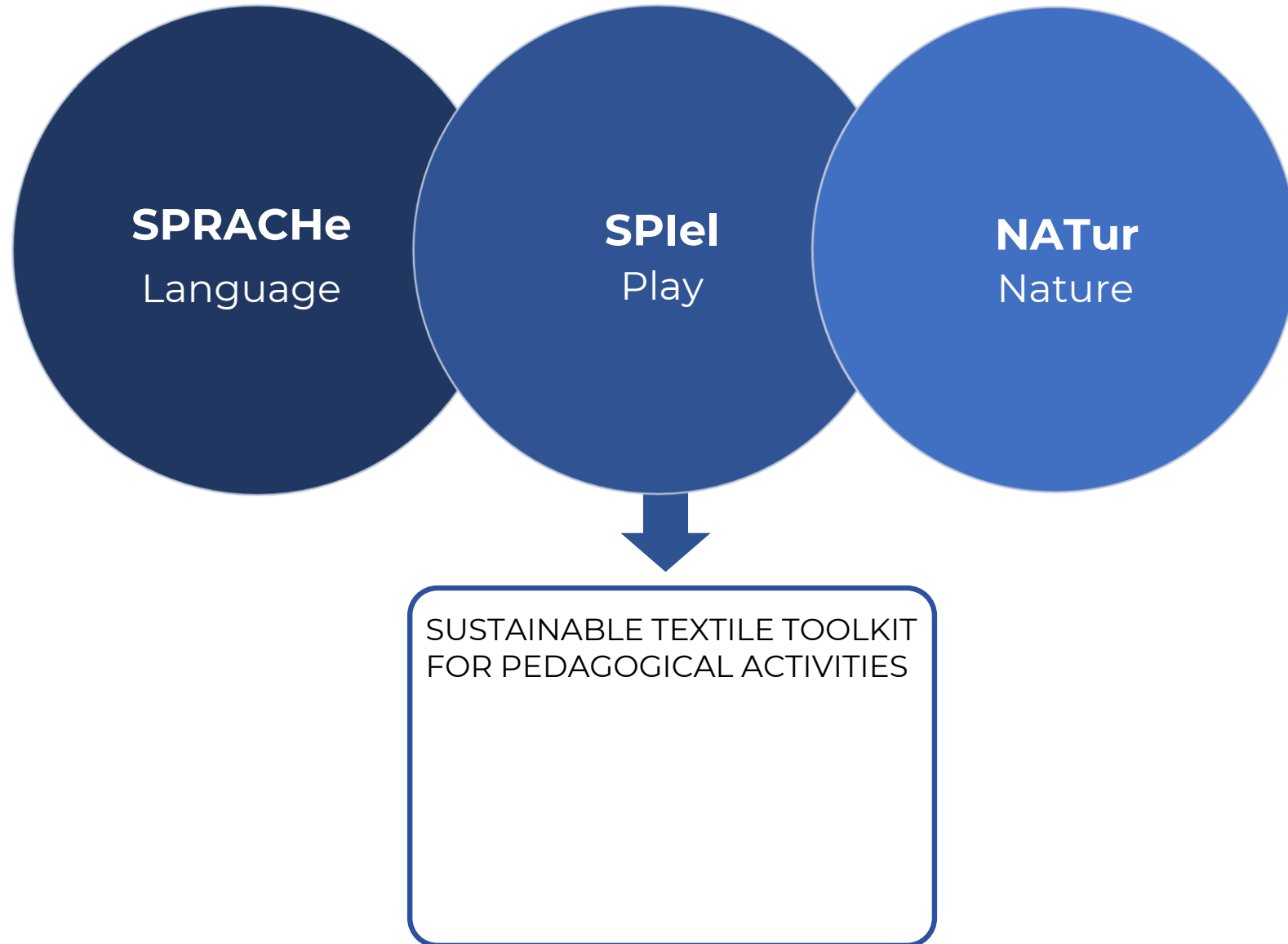
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SPRACHSPINAT®



SPRACHSPINAT®



The SPRACHSPINAT[®] Toolkit

Components

- cape
- reusable hook-and-loop mats
- attachable strips, shapes, & pockets
- ID-holders
- connectors & strings

Sustainability

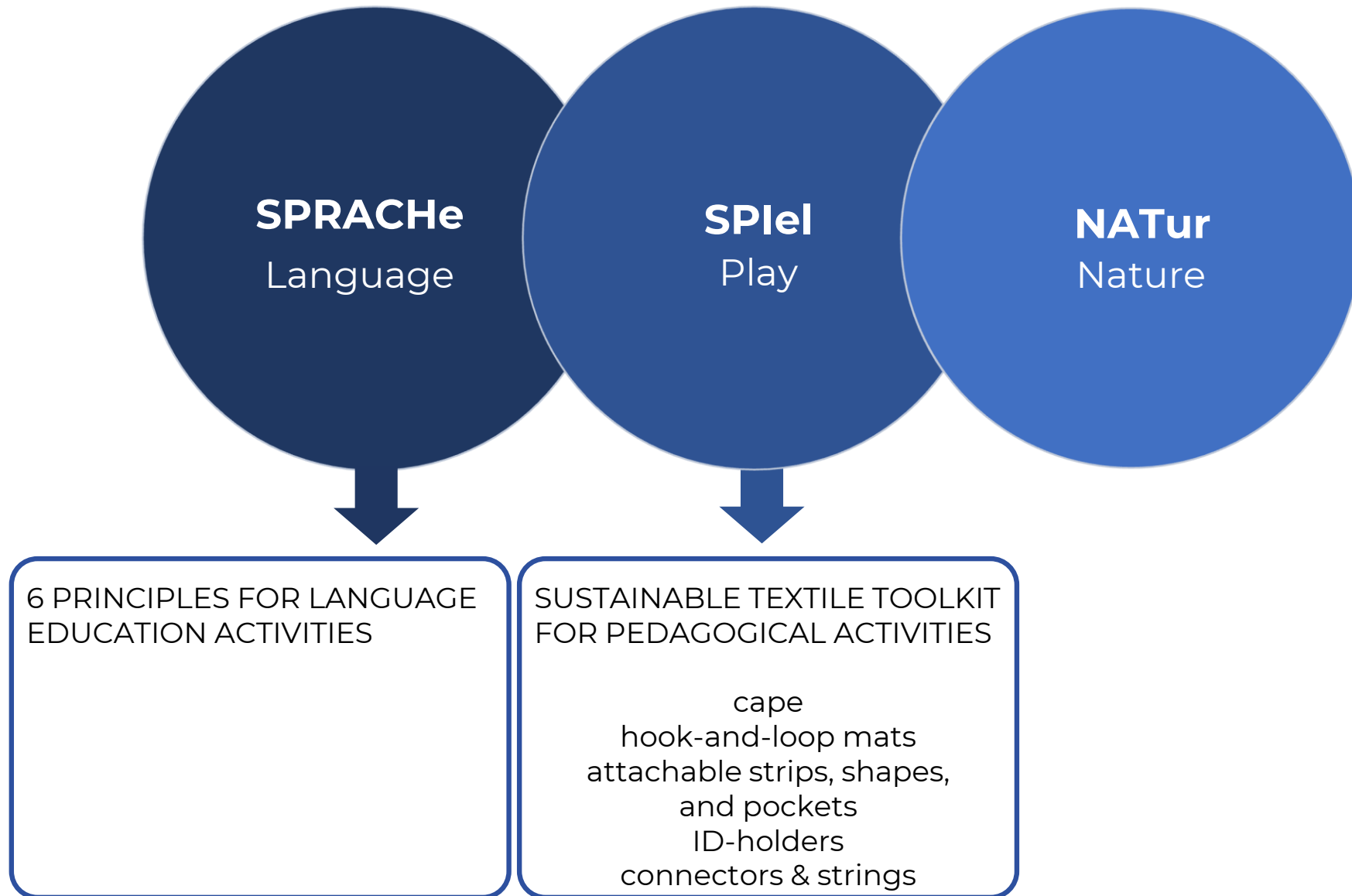
- reusable components
- mostly upcycled / reused materials
- no more laminating cards
- easy vs. difficult attachment options
- helps display natural materials



Photos © Sonja Eisenbeiß



SPRACHSPINAT®



6 Principles for language activities

C Contexts

C Communication

C Culture

C Contrasts

C Combinations

C Consensus



1: Create **C**ontexts for communication through joint attention

Photo © Koopkultur e.V.



Photo © Sonja Eisenbeiß



Encourage everyone to jointly focus their attention on the same objects:

- shared workspaces
- joint tasks for small groups
- shared surfaces

Benefits:

- easier word learning
- longer conversations
(Moore et al. 2014)



2: Stimulate Communication through the choice and distribution of materials

- Mix familiar and novel items with interesting sensory properties, e.g., peppermint vs. Australian lemon leaf.
- Choose items for joint handling and sharing.
- Let participants jointly create something on both sides of a barrier.



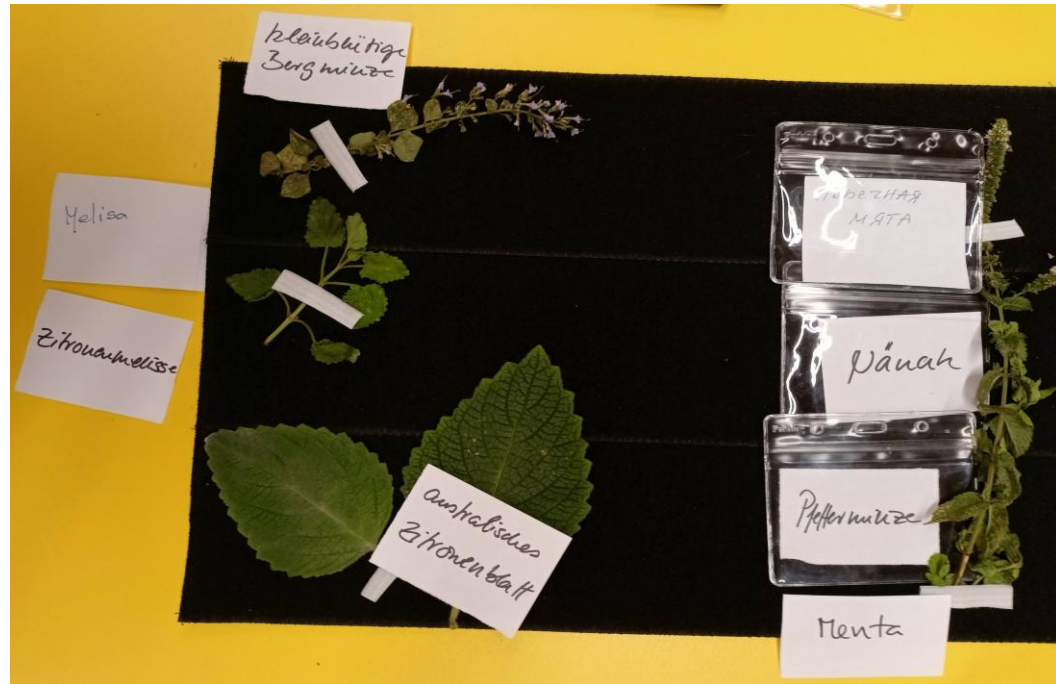
Photo © Sonja Eisenbeiß

Benefits:

- language learning with all senses
- collaboration leading to conversation (Eisenbeiß 2010; Kuo 2019; Yule 2013)

3: Build Culture through rituals and the inclusion of all (language) cultures

Photo © Koopkultur e.V.



- Further ideas: @KlasseSprachen (YouTube); Bredthauer et al. (2021).

Introduce multilingual

- rituals such as welcome routines,
- tasks like labeling, finding info, or displays,
- signs, posters, and reading materials.

Let learners choose which language(s) to use.

Benefits:

- enhanced cognitive and linguistic performance (Eisenbeiß 2025; Torregrossa et al. 2023, 2025)



4: Create **C**ontrasts for increased language awareness and complex language production

Create contrasts between:

- similar but different objects,
- the same object in different positions,
- different forms of the same word, e.g., *small* vs. *small-er*.



Photo © Sonja Eisenbeiß

Benefits:

- richer and more complex language, e.g. additional color or size adjectives
- enhanced language awareness (Eisenbeiß 2009, 2010; Long et al. 2021)



5: Create **C**ombinations of repetition and variation for memorizing and generalizing

Use

- many repetitions of individual word forms,
- a variety of words that follow the same rule, e.g., *berry-berries*, *raspberry-raspberries*, *cherry-cherries*
- variation sets: short sequences combining repetition and variation.

Example: *There are so many **berries** here!
Which **berries** have you found?
Have you found the **raspberry** bush? Oh!
I have found the **raspberries**! And you have found the **cherry tree**! Great!
Where did you find the **cherries**?*

Benefits:

- memorization through consistent repetition
- generalization through variation (Ambridge et al. 2015; Küntay/Slobin 1996, 2002; Slobin et al. 2011; Moran et al. 2019)



6: Establish Consensus on Feedback

- Offer feedback options:
 - explicit correction (*This is incorrect*),
 - meta-linguistic explanations of errors (*The ending is missing.*),
 - implicit correction (e.g., rephrasing in answer).
- Include gestures and facial expressions.
- Be consistent.

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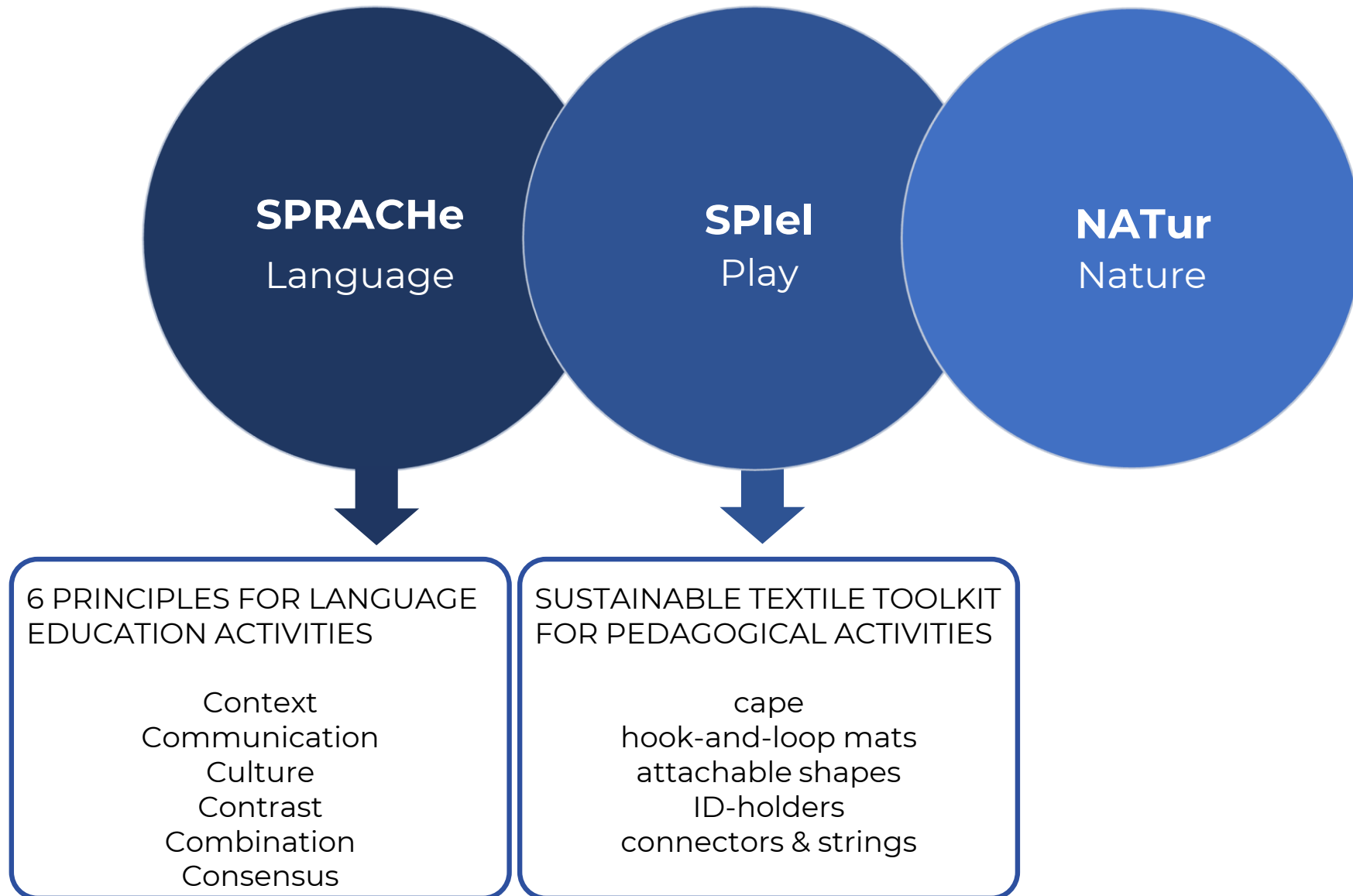


Benefits:

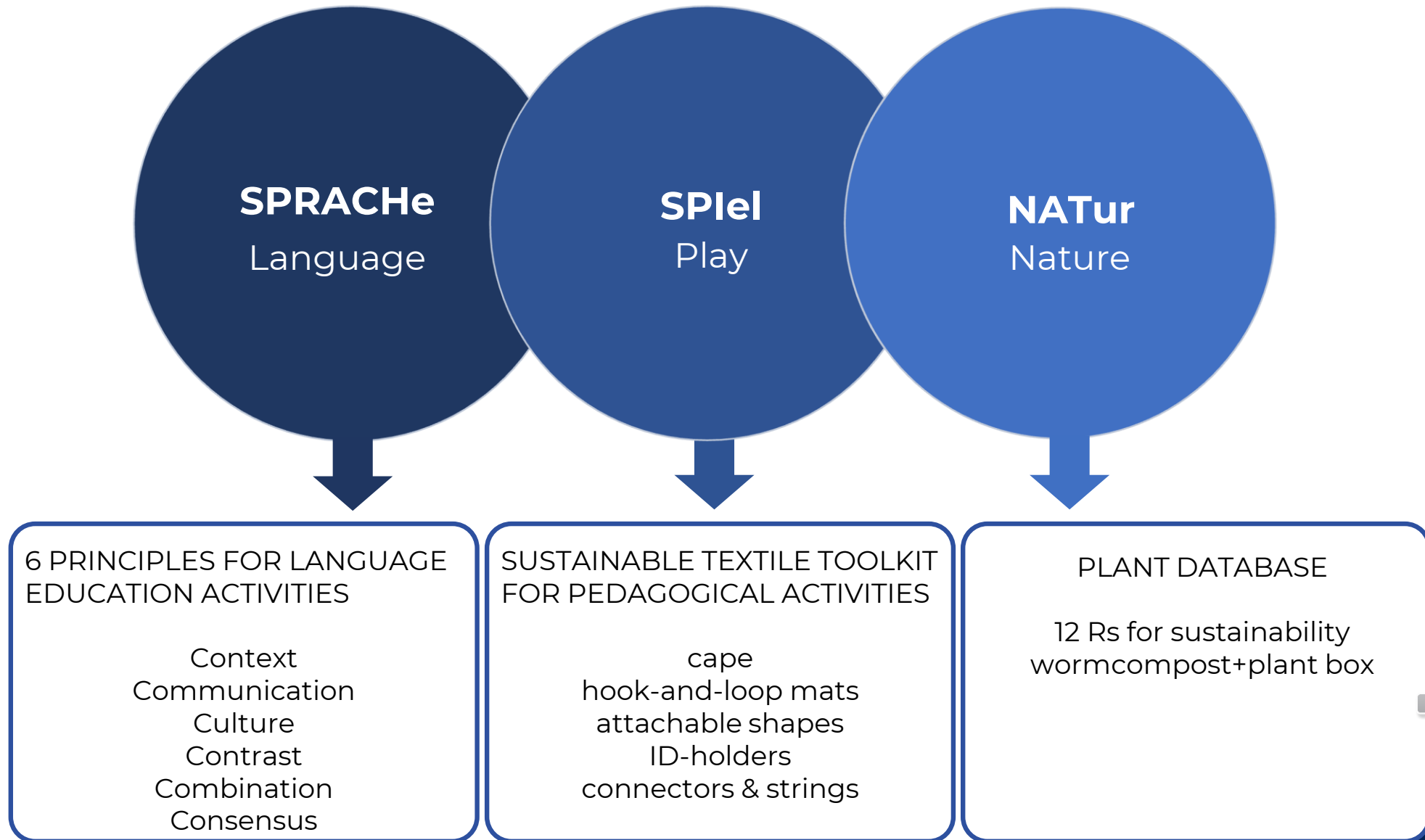
- explicitness: short-term accuracy
 - explanations: understanding
 - implicit feedback: free conversation flow
 - consistency: memorization
 - choice: confidence
- (Ellis et al. 2006; Mackey 2012)



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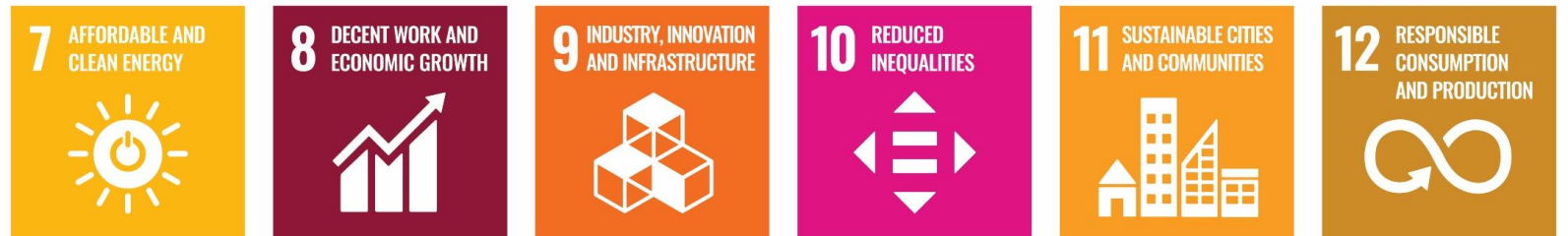
The SPRACHSPINAT® - Garden: Plants

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

kitchen garden



insect garden



climate garden



Icon download: <https://e4k4c4x9.delivery.rocketcdn.me/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2020/06/SDG-icons-and-poster-pack-EN.zip>

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The SPRACHSPINAT® - Garden: Plants

kitchen garden

nature: edible plants

word structure: compound
with recurring elements
(*cocktail vs. beef tomato*)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The SPRACHSPINAT® - Garden: Plants

insect garden

nature: insect friendly plants

vocabulary: compounds

with common words (*cranes-bill*)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The SPRACHSPINAT® - Garden: Plants

climate garden

nature: plants adapted to heat, flooding, or drought

grammar: complex names
(*creeping thyme*)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The SPRACHSPINAT® - Garden: Plants

kitchen garden

nature: edible plants

word structure: compound with recurring elements
(*cocktail vs. beef tomato*)

insect garden

nature: insect friendly plants

vocabulary: compounds with common words (*cranes-bill*)

climate garden

nature: plants adapted to heat, flooding, or drought

grammar: complex names
(*creeping thyme*)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



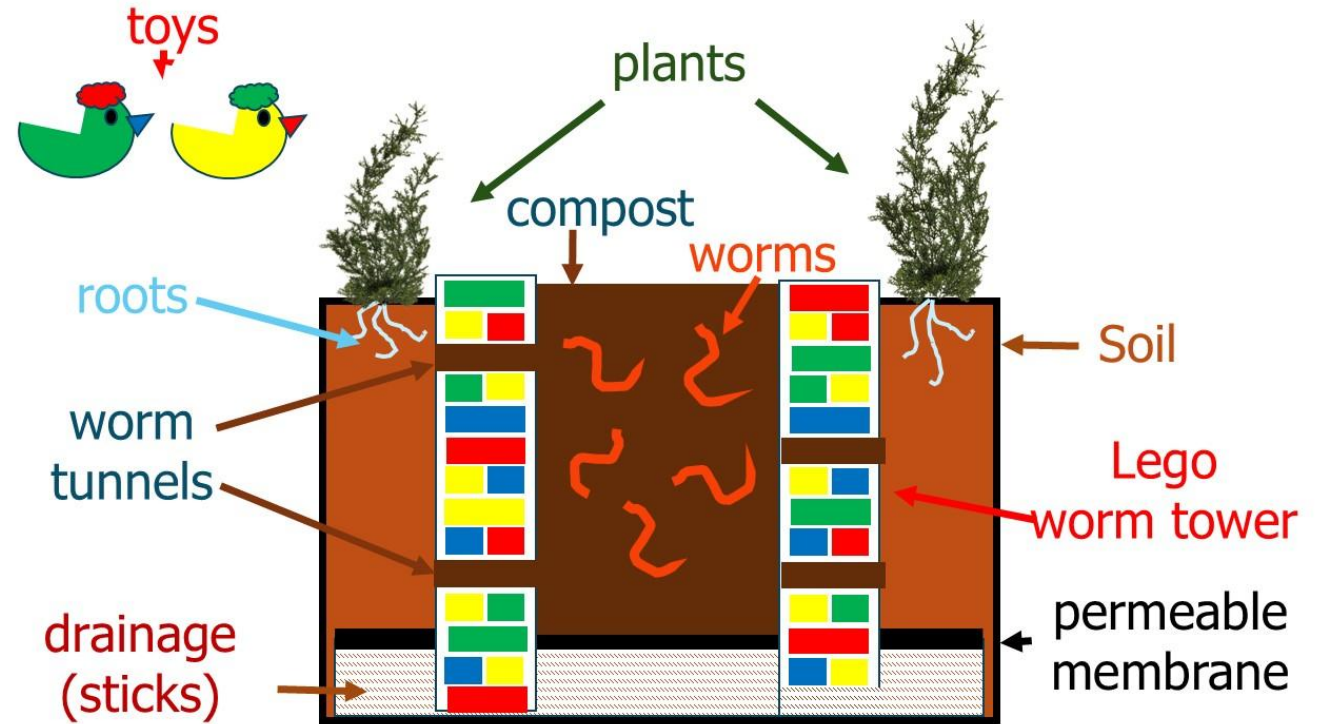
Other SPRACHSPINAT® - Garden

Components

12 RS FOR SUSTAINABLE GARDENING

1. refuse
2. reduce
3. reuse
4. recycle
5. rot
6. repurpose
7. repair
8. replace
9. regift
10. rethink
11. regrow
12. regenerate

"WuPf" worm compost + plant box



SPRACHSPINAT®

SPRACHe
Language

SPIel
Play

NATur
Nature

6 PRINCIPLES FOR LANGUAGE
EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Context
Communication
Culture
Contrast
Combination
Consensus

SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE TOOLKIT
FOR PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITIES

cape
hook-and-loop mats
attachable shapes
ID-holders
connectors & strings

PLANT DATABASE

kitchen garden
insect garden
climate garden

12 Rs for sustainability
wormcompost+plant box



Wrap-Up and Reflection

- How could you implement the **SPRACHSPINAT**[®] concept in your own pedagogical activities?
- How would you combine language education and education for sustainable development?
- How could you apply the 6 principles for language activities in your project?
 - Contexts
 - Communication
 - Culture
 - Contrasts
 - Combinations
 - Consensus



Photo Sonja Eisenbeiß©

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More Information about SPRACHSPINAT®

Visit the Sprache-Spiel-Natur.de website to find more information and a blog article containing the slides for this presentation and further readings and resources.



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Thank you for watching!

Visit the PLURI project website to find more activities, links and inspiration.



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