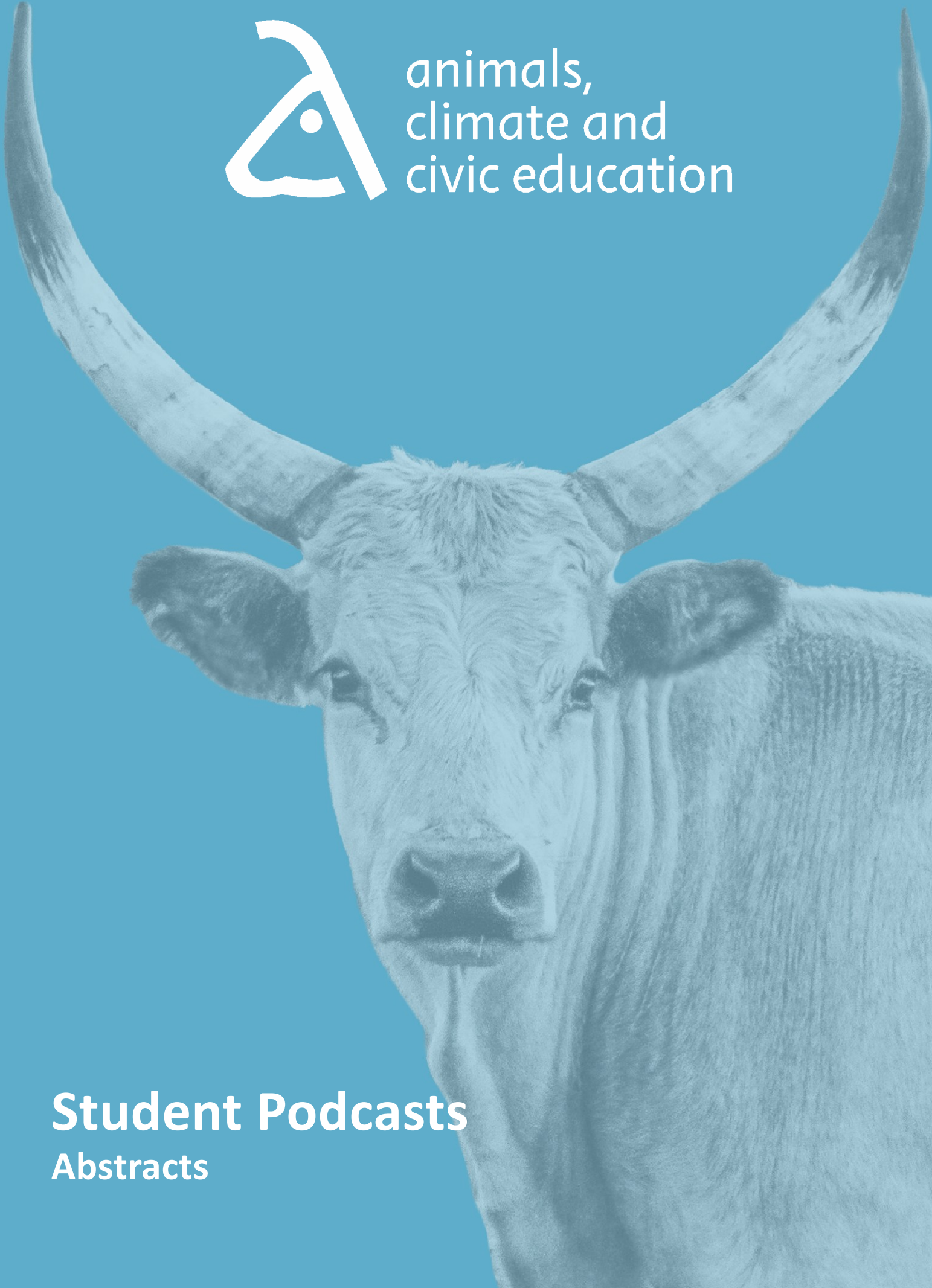




animals,
climate and
civic education

Student Podcasts

Abstracts



Imprint

Author of original German text: Joost Reschke with input from project partners

Editor of original German text: Johannes Stiegler

Translation into English: Deepl.com

Date of publication: 22.11.2023

Document version: 1.0

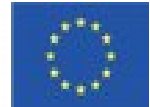
Publisher

ALICE (Animals, Climate and Civic Education), a project co-funded by the European Commission

Project number: KA 220-NI-21-30-32616

Project coordination: Institut für Didaktik der Demokratie / Leibniz Universität Hannover

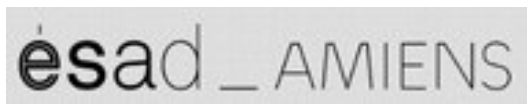
Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Disclaimer

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Partner organisations of the Project



Copyright



This document by ALICE is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.

To view a copy of this license, visit:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Abstracts of the student podcasts

These podcasts were developed and recorded by students involved in the ALICE-project. The students created this podcast in a school project and used a variety of sources. The information is provided "as is" and the students assume no responsibility for its accuracy and completeness.

Podcast 1: Climate crisis and animal agriculture

Episode 1 of our series of student podcasts starts with the topic of species conservation, looking at the links between species extinction, global warming and animal agriculture. A series of questions are explored through interviews, including with expert Friederike Schmitz: Why do species go extinct at all? How many endangered and already extinct species are there? What can we do to reduce the number of species going extinct? How is species loss linked to the climate crisis? And what has animal agriculture got to do with it?

In this interview, Friederike Schmitz gives concrete recommendations for action and talks about the impact of agriculture and in particular animal agriculture on species extinction and climate change. These play a major negative role in climate change which leads to a gradual loss of habitats, for example through the conversion of natural or semi-natural areas into pasture for animals or the cultivation of animal feed. According to Schmitz, it would make more sense to consume the cultivated grain directly, as species-rich landscapes are often replaced by monocultures for the production of animal feed. According to Schmitz, the same applies to rivers and other bodies of water. Keyword: overfishing.

The vast amount of land needed for animal agriculture also leads to the release of huge amounts of greenhouse gases, for example through the clear-cutting of forests. Ruminants such as bovines and sheep also emit methane, a very harmful greenhouse gas. The podcast also looks at ways in which animal agriculture accelerates global warming.

According to Schmitz, reducing or abolishing animal agriculture is a "huge lever" for stopping global warming. Not only could greenhouse gases be saved, but greenhouse gases that have already been emitted could also be stored.

The decision to live or eat vegan can also come from a desire to stand up against the poor living conditions of farmed animals and thus reduce suffering. After all, animals are sentient beings and have rights. Why should they be disregarded? This episode explores the different motivations for going vegan.

The second interviewee was Tanja, who works in an animal sanctuary, where animals, often those previously kept on farms, are able to live free from use and commercial interests. Tanja tells the story of Hanna, who was rescued from factory farming and found a home at the sanctuary.

The podcast episode provides a good overview of the links between climate change, animal agriculture and species extinction.

Podcast 2: Animal agriculture

Episode 2 of the student podcast series looks at some of the negative aspects of animal agriculture, such as the conditions in which animals are kept, the impact on climate change, the development of pandemics and more.

The conditions under which cows and pigs are kept are analysed from an ethical point of view. Some general information about livestock farming in Germany is then given: for example, almost nine times as many animals are slaughtered each year as there are people living in Germany. In addition, animals kept in captivity, especially those kept on farms, have a significantly reduced life expectancy compared to their wild counterparts.

This podcast episode also features two interviews. One of them was recorded anonymously, as the interviewee is a person who also uses illegalised ways to campaign against animal suffering.

The interviews mainly focus on why animal agriculture can be seen very critically and what can be done about it. The problems with using the term 'factory farming' are also explained.

Podcast 3: Animal testing

What is animal testing and what can you do about it? These are the questions explored in this episode of the student podcasts.

Animal testing is a term used to describe experiments on animals, that laboratories claim are cruel but necessary to ensure the safety of drugs and other products. However, according to a large body of research, this claim is not tenable. Although animal testing may seem reasonable at first glance, it cannot guarantee the desired safety and, on the contrary, can often stand in the way of medical progress. In addition, there are now many alternatives to animal testing that provide more transferable results, particularly in the area of research into new medicines.

The students give some tips on what you can do to stop animal testing. For example, when you buy products, you can make sure that they have not been tested on animals during the manufacturing process, which is usually indicated by a logo. You can also organise and take part in campaigns and demonstrations to take a public stand against animal testing.

The podcast concludes with an interview with Sandra Franz of Animal Rights Watch e.V.

Podcast 4: Vegan diet

In this podcast episode, the students present various positive factors and effects of a vegan diet, such as positive effects on the environment and animals.

But what does being vegan actually involve? First and foremost, it means eating a diet free of animal products, i.e. free of meat, fish, milk, eggs and other animal products. Many of these products can be replaced with alternatives that look and taste similar. Less well known, but still part of a vegan lifestyle, is using vegan alternatives to clothing or other everyday products that contain animal ingredients, such as detergents.

The students also pose the question what would happen if the whole of humanity went vegan. The first effect would be the positive impact on everyone's diet. For example, the grain that is used as animal feed could feed many more people than can be fed with the animal products that are currently produced. A vegan lifestyle also has positive effects on health and the environment. Statistically, people who adopt a vegan diet have a lower mortality rate and are healthier, which, in addition to all the personal benefits, could reduce the burden on the healthcare system enormously. Going vegan is also good for the

environment. Much less land is needed to produce vegan food than for meat and other animal products. A vegan diet can therefore counteract the use of land for agriculture and thus the deforestation of forests.

Students then interview other people about being vegan. They learn about how to start a vegan lifestyle and how to deal with reservations from friends and family. The students also talk about how they support animals beyond the food they eat.