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GEN EUROPE
GLOBAL
ECOVILLAGE
NETWORK



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

HOLDING S.P.A.C.E.

(Support for Participatory Activities and Collaborative Entrepreneurship)

2 training courses + facilitation practice and mentorship with real cases



2nd - 8th May, 2023: 1st training - Basics of group facilitation and collaboration

June - September 2023: practical application and mentors support

10th - 16th October 2023: 2nd training - [CLIPS](#) model for community-led projects

Ecovillage [Torri Superiore](#), Italy

CONTENT

Ecovillages and sustainable communities, based on their foundational choice of 'living together, have a long experience **managing and understanding collaborative and participatory projects**, and the relationships created within them. This knowledge has been combined with influences from the fields of sociology, cognitive and group psychology, ecology and systems theory and consolidated in a set of tools and methods that can be very useful for young people to shape a **more just, inclusive and sustainable future**. This project wants to offer a solid base of knowledge and a complete set of skills to a group of people involved in a broad sense in the field of education and/or working with youth, to enable them to support young people in starting participatory projects, or to start participatory projects themselves. To do that, we designed a project that combines **2 training courses and a period for practising with the support of a mentor. The participants need to commit to the whole process to be eligible.**

The **1st training (2-8 May 2023)** will be about the basics of group facilitation and collaboration. Participants will learn about the difference between the leader, the mentor and the facilitator, and their roles in holding together outcomes (what we do together, the objectives), processes (how we work together, the modality) and relationships (how we are with each other, the people). We will explore together topics related to complexity and groups, get to understand how groups work and what keeps them together, and learn some skills to support groups in their decision-making and collective processes. In particular, the basic facilitation elements explored will be useful to organise effective, efficient and inclusive meetings, achieve the group's goals and create a solid, resilient and inclusive internal structure.

During the **period for practice (June to September 2023)**, participants will have the chance to apply what they learned to their groups at home counting with the support of a mentor from the team of trainers. They will be able to present a case study and get direct and detailed advice about possible outcomes and useful tools. They will also become part of a Community of Practice and exchange feedback and support with other participants.

The **2nd training (10-16 October 2023)** will present the [CLIPS \(Community Learning Incubator Programme for Sustainability\)](#), a solution-oriented model to help people involved in participatory projects in their initial steps, but also provide tools and methods to existing initiatives that struggle with problems or simply need revitalisation. CLIPS is based on learnings and insights from established ecovillage projects that have been distilled into concepts and methods applicable to any group that recognises the value of community. The participants in this training will learn the CLIPS model and get practical experience of the CLIPS methodology, benefitting from the first module on the basic facilitation steps.

WHERE IS IT GOING TO HAPPEN?

The mediaeval village of Torri Superiore is a small jewel of popular architecture located at the foothill of the Ligurian Alps, a few kilometres from the Mediterranean Sea and the French border, close to the coastal town of Ventimiglia. Originating in the thirteenth century, the village is structured in three main bodies with more than 160 rooms, all connected by an intricate fabric of stairways.

Its complex structure has often been compared to a fortress or a labyrinth, perched on the mountainside, and unfortunately some people with reduced mobility can find it challenging. The village has been entirely restored and is now open to ecotourism, for courses, meetings and programs of environmental education, and offers accommodation for stays and vacations. Participants will be staying in shared rooms. While enjoying the stunning location, we'll be able to tap into Torri's long experience with volunteering projects and community development.



THE FACILITATORS

Lucilla Borio was secretary of the GEN Europe network from 1999 to 2004 and twice president of GEN internationally (2001 and 2003). In 2001 she started her facilitation training with Beatrice Briggs and IIFAC, with whom she has often collaborated and run training courses. He translated and wrote the introduction to the book “A Practical Guide to Facilitation and the Consensus Method” and has written articles and essays for various books, including “The Encyclopedia of Communities”, “Ecovillage Living”, “Ecovillages around the world” and the recently published Italian book “RIVE, ieri, oggi, domani”. She regularly publishes articles on facilitation in the magazine Vivere Sostenibile Liguria Ponente. Lucilla currently facilitates social change groups, offers courses and is one of the main authors and trainers of the Erasmus+ programme “CLIPS - Community Learning Incubator Partnership for Sustainability”.

Riccardo Clemente has lived in a community called “the Elf Valley” since 2010, and has been co-chair of the Italian Ecovillage Network RIVE between 2016 and 2020. During his tenure he has developed a special interest in youth education and organised the first NextRIVE meeting in summer 2014. He studied at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales where he received a Master’s degree in Environmental and Energy Studies in 2004. Since then he has worked as an educator at the same university focusing on green architecture and especially earth building, while doing workshops on the same topics all over Europe. He worked for five years in South America America volunteering with the bioregional movement and has experience in conflict resolution and decision-making techniques.

Dario Ferraro is a group facilitator, a project manager and a filmmaker. Dario started his journey in intentional communities at Sunseed Desert Technology, a community-led educational centre for the transition towards sustainability in Spain, and at the moment he is Projects Coordinator for GEN Europe, the European network of ecovillages. He is also part of the European network Yes to Sustainability and collaborates regularly with the ecovillage Torri Superiore and other ecovillages in developing transformational learning programmes. He is fascinated by slow cinema, deep ecology and systems thinking.

TRAVEL AND COSTS

For the 1st training, arrival day is Tuesday 2nd of May after 14:00. Departure day is Monday 8th of May after breakfast. You need to be able to attend to the full duration of the activity in order to participate.

This project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the EU, which means that travel and participation costs are covered. Participants will have to buy their tickets in advance and will be reimbursed after the activity. If this arrangement is an obstacle to your participation, please let us know. The tickets will be reimbursed up to a maximum amount that depends on the country where the travel starts. To be eligible as a participant, your country of departure and arrival have to be the same.

MAXIMUM REFUNDABLE AMOUNTS

210€ from Italy

320€ from Slovenia, France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Greece, Serbia and Ukraine

GREEN TRAVEL

To reduce the project's environmental footprint, all participants will be asked to avoid flying for travelling to and from the training. Please make sure that you are comfortable with this condition if you apply.

Participants from all countries (except Italy, Slovenia and France) will also be refunded for the costs of a maximum 1 overnight stay that they need to spend while travelling each way. Only for participants from Ukraine, the maximum number of nights will be 4 each way (4 in total). You will need to provide a proof of payment (tickets, etc.) and the maximum amount is 60€ per extra night.

IMPORTANT! Please note that this measure is not intended to support holidays or other detours before or after the training, and that the amount spent will be refunded only if it is part of a coherent travel plan coming from and going back to your place of residence.



HOW TO APPLY?

If you want to participate in this training, please fill [this questionnaire](#) before **Friday 24th of March, 2023**.

Participants' selection will be based upon the information that you share with us in the questionnaire and consultation with the project's partner organisations.