

**Name of the organisation:** Ecoaldea Matavenero (E10314492 - ES)

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Type of organisation: nonprofit association

### Associated persons

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Our community was created more than 30 years ago, by many young people from Europe. They rehabilitated a village called Matavenero, which was completely abandoned and destroyed by a fire. With the intention of giving life to depopulated areas they started living in teepees and gradually rehabilitated old houses where before there were ruins. Many of these young people are still part of the community, being now adults with young people as children.

The ecovillage project includes all the important aspects of life: connection with nature, with people and with creativity.

We share the vision of creating a settlement in harmony with nature, a space of experimentation and transformation where a living and sustainable rural environment is generated, always looking for the best way in the different dimensions: ecological, economic, social and cultural.

Our values are oriented to permaculture and planet, people and resources care, following the idea that we do not own the land, but we are only the caretakers of it.

The mission is to restore a village and bring it back to life, creating again both collective spaces and family dwellings.



The objectives of the project are:

- To create a community in which all people involved participate, sharing values and fundamentals.
- To create an inclusive and collaborative culture, caring for people and the Earth.
- To be part of related local networks.
- To restore in an ecological way, building with innovative and low impact technology.
- To create a resilient community with a high level of self-sufficiency.

To achieve these goals, the association organizes meetings and workshops to raise awareness about environmental protection, as well as cultural, social and economic activities. The association is made up of inhabitants of the community, who will be able to contribute their experience during the project. Some young people will take part in youth exchanges, participating in all the activities we carry out. We hope to be a tool for our community to promote their learning, development and growth.

Although our association was created recently, its work is part of the continuity of the activities of the historical cultural association, the Neighbourhood Council and all the informal initiatives of the people living in Matavenero. In this context, we have been organizing the social, cultural and economic life in the repopulation project for 30 years.

We receive short or medium-term visits from young people from all over Europe who collaborate in the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of the village. Many of these young people are interested in our idea of sustainability and model of society.

On the other hand, we invite people interested in workshops or talks dedicated to sustainability and permaculture. Matavenero has organized several meetings of ecovillages gathering of the Spain and Portugal ecovillages members, and interested people who do not belong to these projects, thus has welcomed more than 200 people for three days, with bioconstruction, eco projects, sustainability and therapies workshops.

These meetings have been made possible with the help of young people from all over Europe, in the form of volunteers, who have been welcomed in the community to organize these meetings.

During the last few years members of the association have given workshops of bio-construction with straw and mud, in which young people from all parts of Europe participated, and were hosted by the community for about a month.

Free open-air cultural festivals are organized, where everyone who wishes can participate, and where a large number of young people enjoy music, workshops, games, plays... These festivals and workshops have helped to connect our organization and our people with multiple projects throughout the world, with whom we continue to be in contact, so that there are now young people living with us who previously belonged to other projects.



A youth meeting was held, in which young people from all over Spain participated. During the meeting, activities have been done, together with the members of the community, the members of the community have offered workshops on dance, theatre, meditation, yoga, bio-construction...

Yula Arguello Navaro was born and raised in the Matavenero Ecovillage.

In terms of formal education, he studied Electrical Engineering at the University of Valencia and through the Erasmus program, he spent 1 year at the Technical University of Lisbon.

After working as an electrical engineer in Valencia, he returned to the Matavenero ecovillage. The knowledge he acquired in formal education is helping a lot the community of Matavenero, as he is working with solar panel systems helping the village to have electricity.

He has done several Erasmus+ trainings and youth exchanges related to sustainability issues, non-violent communication, project writing, leadership and facilitation.

He has taught workshops on theatrical improvisation and working with emotions and their expression through play, using non-formal methods.

Throughout his life he has helped his father, who is a beekeeper, in the work with bees and in the production of organic honey, in this way, from a very young age he became interested in pollinators, biodiversity, the problems caused by pollution and the loss of natural habitat and biodiversity.

He has facilitated youth groups in Matavenero, as well as, he is currently taking the IFACE facilitation training in Valencia.

He is a passionate climber and is currently working on the opening of the first route in the Matavenero ecovillage. He has taught sport climbing to Erasmus groups in Lisbon (Portugal) and has taught rock climbing to children in Valencia.

Baptiste Cardon has an university degree in management of cultural organizations and since 2000 has been involved in projects for the creation of cultural and sport events in France. Since he came to live in Matavenero ecovillage more than 10 years ago, he has been trained in sustainable construction techniques, photovoltaic energy installations and non-violent communication. He dedicates part of his time to the organization of the ecovillage, facilitating assemblies, is a member of the village's Neighbourhood Council and has a very close relationship with the local administrations. He organizes working groups in the village, which help in the reconstruction and environmental maintenance. He participates in the organization of events such as village festivals or meetings such as the Iberian Ecovillage Network, since 2020 he is involved in the internal work of this network. In addition, he gives workshops related to taichi and meditation, with which he shares his teachings, he has a great knowledge about relaxation techniques and self-knowledge. He facilitates ecstatic dance workshops where emotions are expressed through dance, to reach a state of conscious meditation. Last year he participated in the training on creation of European Solidarity Corps projects.

