

General Assembly 2004, GEN-Europe at ZEGG

Working group Education and Youth:

Focaliser: Mari Hollander, Staff: Ina Meyer-Stoll

Recommendations for GEN- Europe Staff and council:

- 1) Continue making translations of the various materials available in all European languages.
 - 2) Make the Calendar of events on WEB site easier to use, (post us instructions) and also please post us e- updates of coming events every few months /twice a year as reminders in the EV-forum.
 - 3) Add a box to the WEB site's database that can indicate a willing to host young travellers who would pay little and do some work exchange.
 - 4) When making an application for EU funding under the GEN-Europe umbrella, we supported the staff of GEN -Europe's criteria -- with suggested amendments as noted by Ina.
 - 5) Consider that GEN - Europe could host a second annual meeting, geographically distant from the main GA-summer event.
 - 6) GEN -Europe is requested to give support to the new initiative of linking various eastern European ecovillages (as a beginning -- this could grow). GEN may be asked to fund the publication of a short descriptive booklet, and map and a 'passport' that visitors would receive that allow ecovillager's hosts to make comments, helpful to the next ecovillage and the traveller. (Particularly aimed at young people)
 - 7) We suggest to ourselves, and others interested, that we refresh and use the education list already created on the GEN Europe WEB site for ecovillage education -- wherein we can share experience and offering support to each other, particular in the realms of living educational processes for the visitors to our communities.
 - 8) We ask that the next round of Ecovillage education curriculum material be available to educators and aspiring education throughout the European ecovillages, network.
-

Travelling School of Life – proposal Teodora Borghoff:

During the working group on youth and education came out the idea to encourage young people experiencing life in ecovillages in a format that is simple to implement and doesn't require substantial funding. There are also more elaborated proposals (e.g. a multilateral EVS project) that will come on a separate message.

How it works:

An ecovillage can express the interest to host young people in a setting that is affordable for them, can set conditions (age of people, how many at one time, minimum and maximum period of time) so that young people can come and learn by living as part of the community. The young person would pay for the own travel and other spot the fee can be from free food and accommodation in exchange of work to a maximum of 5 Euros per person per day (a proposal that was discussed during the Assembly).

The next step is to publish a little booklet and webpage (to be included in GEN-Europe's website) with an introduction, a map and presentations of the participating ecovillages. On the GEN website there will be a general intro and the EV database will be slightly adapted (an extra-text filed and extra search criteria).

To encourage those very motivated and helpful young people there's another idea that an ecovillage can issue a "passport" where one can write the dates when that person was staying, details about the activities (s)he was participating in. The travellers can be encouraged to write their impressions on a guestbook on the website.

The idea has nothing spectacular - there are elements from famous existing programs such as woof or EVS. However the important thing is that this is done in the context of GEN and is strengthening the links between the ecovillages themselves as they are promoted together, can discuss and evaluate among themselves during the meetings, etc. We, the people from Germany, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Russia, Hungary, Poland and Romania who sat together putting together this paper, we had a great time together, particularly as we already "shared" visitors and could gossip about them :-)

During our talks and during the presentations to larger groups there was the temptation to expand this idea in very many interesting directions touching education, promotion, linking etc. We agreed and insist on the idea that for the beginning to keep it very simple and start it and later the sky is our limit...

So, please add your ecovillage (initiative) to the great map of youth-friendly ecovillages to get this rolling!

1. Name of the ecovillage
2. Contact person
3. Contact details (including e-mail and web-site)
4. Preferred timing and amount of people (min/max no of people to come at one time, length of stay min/max, period of the year, pre-contact compulsory or not and for how long in advance, etc)
5. Living conditions offered to youth travellers (beds, tents, showers, type of food, type of work, climate, etc)
6. Other requirements (no of hours work/day, languages, experience, things to bring, etc)
7. Offers from the ecovillage (languages spoken, kind of life learning experiences, practical things to be learnt, etc)
8. What experience does your EV have with similar kind of activities?
9. Do you also offer courses / workshops, etc. can you offer discounts? - This idea has to be further developed)

Your proposal for max amount of money to be charged (current proposal 5Euros)

Your proposal for min/max age for this program (current proposal 18 -25).
Any comments / ideas/ proposals for the program?
