

REPORT OF THE
GEN-EUROPE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Convento San Giorgio, Italy

JULY 9 – 12 2007



**Global
Ecovillage
Network - Europe**

www.gen-europe.org

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Introduction

In 2007 the General Assembly of the members of the Global Ecovillage Network of Europe e.V. was held in Italy, at the beautiful Convent San Giorgio from Legambiente in Abruzzo. Many thanks to our hosts Nanni Laurent and Mariangela!

The following full members have been present:

1. Austrotopia, Austria
2. Balkan Ecovillage Network
3. Damanhur Federation, Italy,
4. Eco-hameau du Furan, France
5. Findhorn Foundation, Scotland
6. Galgafarm, Hungary,
7. GEN-Finland
8. Gunes Koy, Turkey
9. Gyürüfü, Hungary
10. Hungarian EV Network
11. Kibbutz Lotan, Israel
12. La Comune di Bagnaia, Italy,
13. Lilleoru, Estonia
14. LOS, Denmark
15. Munksogaard, Denmark
16. Ökodorf Sieben Linden, Germany
17. Red Iberica de Ecoaldeas, Spain
18. RIVE, Italy
19. Russian EV Network
20. Svanholm, Denmark
21. Tamera, Portugal
22. Torri Superiore, Italy
23. Viverde, Austria
24. ZEGG, Germany

More than 50 % of all full members have been present (24 from 42) so the current president of GEN-Europe Achim Ecker could open the assembly officially.

In addition to the full members five supportive members from Norway, Cyprus, Spain, Austria and Italy were present at the assembly.

We welcomed 75 participants from Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Turkey and US.

Please find the participants list in Annex 1.

Before GA:

Before the General Assembly started 20 people attended the one-day workshop "Social communication" offered by Ina and Achim.

In the evening the participants watched the movie "An Inconvenient Truth" by Al Gore, more information: <http://www.climatecrisis.net/>

During this GA GEN-Europe welcomed 10 new supportive members and three full membership applications are pending.

Agenda:

GEN-Europe General Assembly 2007 – SCHEDULE

	Monday 9	Tuesday 10	Wednesday 11	Thursday 12
Am 9.30	* Welcome & Introduction * Secretariat reports Annual report 06/07	* Discussion on new secretariat * Meeting in small groups	* Selection of a new council member by Council * Continued disc. on secretariat	* Ex. Award election * Open space * Report back from Open Space groups
12.30 Lunch				
14.30	Payment of travel refunds & membership fees	⇒	⇒	
15.00	* Presentation of budget for approval and “Newcomer meeting” * World café	* Open Space * 17h Convent tour	* EV Excellence award presentations * Open space	* Conclusions * Next GA * Evaluation
19 Dinner				
20 Evening	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations	Party

Report and conclusions:

Secretariat's Report of 2006-07:

The full members approved the Secretariat's Report of activities 2006-07 about the various activities of GEN-Europe. The report can be downloaded at http://www.gen-europe.org/downloads/assemblies/ga07report_low.pdf

Annual financial report of 2006 -07:

The full members approved the financial report of 2006 and the financial report till June 30th 2007. The pdf reports can be found in Annex 2.

The good news is that GAIA TRUST from Denmark will continue their generous support of GEN and GEN-Europe for three more years. GEN-Europe will receive about 12.000 Euro (from July 07 – 2010), which will be spent to keep the basic functions of the association active and for member's activities.

The Office Rotation:

The main issue this year was the office rotation, which happens every four years to share the benefit of hosting an office for GEN-Europe.

Since summer 2003 the offices of GEN-Europe were in Germany at ZEGG in cooperation with the office in Findhorn, Scotland and in Torri Surereiore, Italy.

The staff team Jonathan Dawson, Ina Meyer-Stoll (the executive secretaries), Kasimir Reichmuth (webmaster) and Michael Anderau (general inquiries) feel open and ready to release their responsibilities.

Please find a list of responsibilities in Annex 3.

After long and thorough discussions, the outcome looks like this:

By the time of the next General Assembly in 2008 the main office will be moved to Estonia to Ave Oit and the ecovillage Lilleoru, a new full member. Ave can offer two offices, one is in the community, and one in the city, no rent is needed. Ave is willing to work 15 - 20 hours a week for 250 – 300 Euros per month.

Please visit their website if you don't know Lilleoru yet: <http://www.lilleoru.ee/eng/en/>

Another part of the office responsibilities will be moved to Damanhur in Italy, where the general email enquiries and the membership administration will be taken care of. The team in Damanhur (Capra Caruba, Macaco Tamarice and Aquila del Mare) offered the office space and their work (2-5 hours per week) for free!

For more information about Damanhur please see the website: www.damanhur.org

We give thanks to all of you who generously offered support to solve this question, especially to Ecovillage Sieben Linden, who was also considering of being involved. The old staff team will slowly start to hand over the responsibilities when the new team feels ready to start and hopefully the formal transfer will be made at the next GA in 2008.

The official registration of the association and also the bank account of GEN-Europe will stay in Germany until at least next summer.

New council member:

The council selected a new council member for one year because Andy Langford left the council in spring 2007. Mari Hollander from the Findhorn Foundation (who was a substitute council member) chose not to become a full council member again.

Martin Kirchner from Austrotopia, the Austrian Ecovillage network was willing to join the council for one year till the next council elections in 2008. Welcome Martin and thank you for your willingness to serve GEN-Europe!

Ecovillage Excellence Award 07:

At this General Assembly the full members elected the winner of the Ecovillage Excellence Award directly at the assembly. The participants had the pleasure to listen to four inspiring presentations:

- Tamera, Portugal
- Ecovillage Sieben Linden, Germany
- Permaculture Magazine, UK
- Deniz Dincel and the Findhorn Footprint Analysis

The winner for 2007 is Tamera, Healing Biotope in Portugal!

Congratulations for your impressive activities within the last year!

The prize is nominated with 1000.- € and a beautiful piece of pottery made in Torri Superiore.

Find more information about Tamera: www.tamera.org

Proposal to encourage visits in ecovillages:

A proposal was made to promote greater exchanges between ecovillage members. This can be found in Annex 4.

In short, the proposal gives:

“Encouragement of exchange visits between participating ecovillages:

A member of a participating ecovillage is invited to stay for xxx nights at a cost-sharing price of (0-10 Euro/night).

Please ask for availability at “contact person”.

Any prolonged stay needs to be clarified.

This does not include participating in seminar/events, but participation in daily life.”

It was agreed that this proposal should be discussed within European ecovillages. All Ecovillages wishing to participate in the scheme are invited to add the text above into the descriptions of their Ecovillages in the Ecovillage directory on the GEN-Europe website.

For further support, please contact Kasimir: <Kasimir at gen-europe.org>

Encouragement of exchange visits between participating ecovillages:

A member of a participating ecovillage is invited to stay for xxx nights at a cost-sharing price of (0-10 Euro/night).

Please ask for availability at “contact person”.

Any prolonged stay needs to be clarified.

This does not include participating in seminar/events, but participation in daily life.

Please read the full proposal in the annex.

Ecovillages that offer a special youth programme should mention this as well in their description in the website directory of GEN-Europe. You can click on "Youth focus".

Open Space groups

The General Assembly broke into a number of Open Space working groups. Reports on some of these are attached as Annex 5.

Next GA:

The General Assembly in 2008 will be held in the Ecovillage Sieben Linden in Germany in early July. Elke Wiegand and Ulrike will be our hosts. Thank you for the willingness to host us!

More information about Sieben Linden: <http://www.siebenlinden.de/english0000.html>

The Ecovillage Keuruu in Finland also invited us for the GA, which was great. We like the idea to come to Finland in 2009 and will decide on this at the GA in 2008.

New council decision on ecorates policy:

For the next General Assembly the council decided a new ecorates policy: GEN-Europe will offer for two representatives of a full member project to pay in ecorates and for one supportive member.

If you want to know more about the ecorate system, please visit the website: <http://eyfa.org/wiki/EcoRates>

ANNEXES

1. Participants List
2. Financial overview on 2006/07
3. Responsibilities of the GEN-Europe secretariat
4. Proposal to encourage visits in Ecovillages
5. Reports of Open Space
6. Opening poem "A Hopi Elder speaks"

ANNEX 1. Participants List

Name	Surname	Ecovillage Or Other	Skype	E-Mail
Achim	Ecker	Zegg		<Achim.Ecker at zegg.de>
Alberto				
Aleksander	Medic	Student	aleksandarmedic	a.medic at sssup.it lotan-build at lotan.ardom.co.il
Alex	Cicelsky	Kibbutz Lotan		
Alfredo		Bagnaia		
Ambre		Auroville		ambre at auroville.org.in andreas.schoenauer at voestalpine.com
Andreas	Schonauer	Viverde		jeanmi3 at hotmail.com
Anne	Glaesner	Eco-Hameau Du Furan		annemettesch at gmail.com
Anne	Scholer	Linde Alle		research at oekodorf.or.at
Anton	Nothegger	Keimblatt Okodorf		
Aquila	Di Mare	Damanhur		
Ave	Oit	Lilleoru Community		ave at loodusjoud.ee
Betsy				info at artmonastery.org bettina.boxleitner at viverde.at
Bettina	Boxleitner	Viverde		
Chiara	Perego	Paciamoci		
Christoph	Ulbig	Tamera, Healing Biotope The Art Monastery Project		momo32 at web.de
Christopher				info at artmoanstery.org
Cinzia	Taranto	Altro		sciaman at hotmail.com
Coralie	Goulinet	Eco-Hameau Du Furan		comat_g at hotmail.com
Corrado	Quarra	Altro		manihiki at libero.it
Daniele	Biella	Paciamoci		
Deniz	Dincel	Guneskoy	dendin	ddincel at gmail.com
Didier	Billes	Change The World Balkan Ecovillage Network		gundji at yahoo.co.uk
Drazen	Semlesa			drazen.simlesa at pilar.hr
Eberhart	Bechtle	Svanholm	eberhardbechtle	eberhard at svanholm.dk
Elisabetta	Spigariol	Ricercatore Libero		bettyspiga at libero.it
Elke	Wiegand	Siebenlinden		maier-wiegand at web.de
Esa	Aaltonen	Gen-Finland	vuohikko	esa.aaltonen at merlintreks.com
Gabor	Toth	Hungary		tothgabor7 at yahoo.co.uk
Gabriella	Kiss	Galgafarm		geza at zpok.hu
Geza	Varga	Galgafarm		geza at zpok.hu
Gulay	Bostanci	Ecovillagecommite		bkonuk at kibris.net
Heikki		Joybird Community		hhattila at saunalahti.fi
Idiko	Karpati	Galgafarm		gaia at zpok.hu
Ilona	Hazi	Galgafarm		geza at zpok.hu
Ina	Meyer-Stoll	ZEGG/GEN-Europe		ina at gen-europe.org
Inci	Goekmen	Guneskoy - Sunvillage		igokmen at metu.edu.tr
Insa	Freese	LOES		<i-free at 12move.dk>
Ismail	Cemal	Delcraft Cyprus		delcraft at superonline.com
Istvan	Virag	Galgafarm		gaia at zpok.hu
Jana	Mohaput	Tamera, Healing Biotope		momo32 at web.de
Jean-Michel	Pochat	Eco-Hameau Du Furan		jeanmi3 at hotmail.com
Jette	Hagensen	Munksoegaard		jh42 at munksoegaard.dk
Jonas	Di Gregorio	Villa Cesarebbe		<jonathan at gen- europe.org>
Jonathan	Dawson	Findhorn/GEN-Europe		jlapimaa at hot.ee
Jyri	Lapimaa	Individual		kasimir at gen-europe.org
Kasimir	Reichmuth	Torri Superiore	kasimirskype	kili at gyurufu.hu
Kilian	Imre	Gyurufu		

Laysan	Mirsagitova	Big Stone		laysan at enw.net.ru
Leonardo	Trevisan	Altro		
Levente	Pesti	Galgafarm		geza at zpok.hu
Lise	Reinholdt	Svanholm		lisereinholdt at hotmail.com
Lucilla	Borio	Torri Superiore		info at torri-superiore.org
Maarten	Barckhof	Vereniging Ecodorp	MBGentleHeart	albacom at xs4all.nl
Macaco	Tamerice	Damanhur	macacot	macaco at damanhur.it
Marije		Art Monastery Austrian Ecovillage Network		info at artmoanstery.org
Martin	Kircher	Torri Superiore		martinkirchner at gmx.net
Massimo	Candela	Zegg		info at torri-superiore.org
Michael	Anderau	Ecodorp Nederland	michaelanderau	michael at sternenaugen.net
Mouna	Samarcand e	Change The World	nachtuiltje	mouna at ecodorp.nl
Natalia	Toniste	Individual		gundji at yahoo.co.uk
Nele	Hilliges	Individual		
Nils	Battino	Bagnaia		nils_hilliges at yahoo.de
Paolo	Schönauer	Viverde		lacomune.bagnaia at libero.it
Sonja	Aluste	Esna	sven_aluste	sonja.schoenauer at aon.at
Sven	Ginzburg	Shiram	ma_dzaru_tigi	sven.aluste at esna.ee
Tatiana	Trapido	Individual		holos at inbox.ru
Toomas	Lapimaa	Individual		toomas.trapido at gmail.com
Triin	Escorihuet a	Rie		trl at etf.ee
Ulises	Schimmel	Sieben Linden Ecovillage Initiative In Norway		ulises at selba.org
Ulrike	Santiglia	Altro	vincenzo.santiglia	ulrikeschimmel at gmx.de
Vincenzo	Signorini	Nevo Ecoville		vincenzolpw at gmail.com
Virginia	Trubitzina			virginia.signorini at yahoo.it
Yevgeniya	Altan	Cyprus Government		truevgeniya at rambler.ru
Zekai	Varga	Galgafarm		zekai.altan at superonline.com
Zsofi				gaia at zpok.hu

ANNEX 2. Financial report on 2006/07

GEN-EUROPE BUDGET 2006		Calculation	percentage of spent budget	in / out total
Income 2006				
A	Direct income from Activity	3.771	208%	11.986,15 €
a1	Membership fees	3.371	191%	6.449,58 €
a2	Sales of material	800	312%	2.498,46 €
a3	Other income	1.600	190%	3.038,11 €
B	Contribution Gals, Villages and others	112.866	98%	110.272,26 €
C.	EU contribution	78.063	60%	47.437,80 €
	Total income 2006	187.200	86%	169.696,21 €
Costs 2006				
A	Staff costs			
a1	Jonathan Dawson	12.000	100%	12.000,00 €
a2	Ira Meyer-Stoll	12.000	99%	11.844,00 €
a3	Kasimir Reichmuth	6.500	100%	6.500,00 €
a4	Michael Anderau	2.000	101%	2.020,00 €
a5	Others (incl. fundraising)	4.500	84%	3.784,79 €
		37.000	98%	36.148,79 €
B	Travels, meetings, courses			
b1	Annual assembly	9.000	95%	8.590,18 €
b2	Council meetings	2.000	97%	1.931,52 €
b3	Staff meetings	1.000	86%	858,77 €
b4	National network meetings	3.000	99%	2.960,21 €
b5	Educational and conference activities	6.000	98%	5.896,63 €
b6	Exchange visits	3.000	81%	2.427,03 €
b7	Educational bursaries	2.000	96%	1.916,70 €
b8	Support of network activities	3.000	103%	3.100,00 €
b9	Other travel costs	2.500	60%	1.509,42 €
b10	Gala Education	20.000	81%	16.366,94 €
b11	Ecovillage excellence award	3.400	97%	3.300,00 €
		104.900	85%	89.357,40 €
D	Durable equipment and stationary			
d1	Stationery (Sofortabschreibung GWG)	2.500	74%	1.854,14 €
	weitere Abschreibung Vereinsvermögen			37,96 €
d2	Postage	1.500	76%	1.142,51 €
d3	Photocopies	200	0%	- €
d4	Telephone	2.000	100%	1.990,42 €
		6.200	81%	5.025,03 €
E	Printing, publication, translation, interpretation costs			
e1	Newsletter editing costs	5.500	100%	5.500,00 €
e2	Newsletter publication costs	4.000	79%	3.150,00 €
e3	Translations	3.000	100%	3.000,00 €
e4	Printing costs	5.000	117%	5.855,90 €
		17.500	100%	17.505,90 €
F	Sub-contracting and/or transfer of funds to partners			
f1	GEN IS - Information Services	13.374	97%	13.008,28 €
f2	Findhorn Footprint	6.092	162%	9.861,90 €
		18.466	117%	22.870,18 €
G	Direct office costs			
g1	Rent	5.500	87%	4.761,12 €
g2	Heating	500	168%	840,00 €
g3	Software, hardware	2.500	74%	1.849,27 €
		8.500	88%	7.450,39 €
H	Other expenditures			
h1	Consulting costs	1.000	54%	538,90 €
h2	Data management costs	434	59%	258,00 €
h3	Bank charges	200	114%	228,25 €
h4	Administration costs	1.500	87%	1.300,24 €
		3.134	74%	2.325,39 €
I	costs for selling material	2.000	345%	3.447,34 €
	Total Costs 2006	187.200	93%	184.130,42 €

GEN-EUROPE ASSETS 2006

Statement of assets on 1.1.2006:

Postbank: 2437,96 Cashbox: 1535,67 Loan: 1000 Total Sum: 2973,63

Statement of assets on 31.12.2006

Postbank	3.170,32 €
Denkse Bank	5.924,12 €
Fuggerbank	25.317,53 €
Cash	342,45 €
Assets (Computer)	1.285,00 €
Sum	36.039,42 €
minus opening balance 1.1.2006	2.973,63 €
= total assets in 2006	33.065,79 €
by:	
Loan 31.12.2006	47.500,00 €
In and Out 2006	-14.434,21 €
= Sum	33.065,79 €



GEN-EUROPE BUDGET 2007			percentage of spent budget	in / out total
	Calculation			
Income 2007				
A	Direct income from Activity	11.000	44%	4.839,00 €
a1	Membership fees	6.500	68%	4.417,00 €
a2	Sales of material	2.000	6%	122,00 €
a3	other income	2.500	12%	300,00 €
B	Contribution Gala Trust	15.400	0%	- €
C	EU contribution Balance 2006	26.000	0%	- €
	Total Income 2007	52.400	9%	4.839,00 €
Costs 2007				
A	Staff costs			
a1	Jonathan Dawson		#DIV/0!	- €
a2	Ina Meyer-Stoll		#DIV/0!	- €
a3	Karl-Heinz Reichmuth		#DIV/0!	- €
a4	Michael Andersau		#DIV/0!	- €
a5	Others (incl. fundraising)		#DIV/0!	150,00 €
		0	#DIV/0!	150,00 €
B	Travels, meetings, courses			
b1	Annual assembly	9.000	8%	694,82 €
b2	Council meetings		#DIV/0!	- €
b3	Staff meetings		#DIV/0!	- €
b4	National network meetings		#DIV/0!	- €
b5	Educational and conference activities		#DIV/0!	772,77 €
b6	Exchange visits		#DIV/0!	- €
b7	Educational bursaries		#DIV/0!	- €
b8	Support of network activities		#DIV/0!	- €
b9	Other travel costs		#DIV/0!	90,76 €
b10	Gala Education via Danske B.	extra	#WERT!	- €
b11	EcoVillage excellence award	1.400	0%	- €
		10.400	15%	1.558,29 €
D	Durable equipment and stationary			
d1	Stationery	750	6%	46,45 €
d2	Postage	500	52%	258,58 €
d3	Photocopies	0	#DIV/0!	- €
d4	Telephone	1.500	16%	237,53 €
		2.750	20%	542,56 €
E	Printing, publication, translation, interpretation costs			
e1	Newsletter editing costs		#DIV/0!	- €
e2	Newsletter publication costs		#DIV/0!	- €
e3	Translations		#DIV/0!	150,00 €
e4	Printing costs		#DIV/0!	- €
		0	#DIV/0!	150,00 €
F	Sub-contracting and/or transfer of funds to partners			
f1	GEN IS - Information Services		#DIV/0!	- €
			#DIV/0!	- €
		0	#DIV/0!	- €
G	Direct office costs			
g1	Rent	3.500	13%	463,62 €
g2	Heating		#DIV/0!	- €
g3	Software, hardware		#DIV/0!	- €
		3.500	13%	463,62 €
H	Other expenditures			
h1	Consulting costs	500	48%	240,00 €
h2	Data management costs	0	#DIV/0!	87,50 €
h3	Bank charges	100	58%	57,75 €
h4	Administration costs	1.400	76%	1.062,08 €
		2.000	72%	1.447,33 €
I	costs for selling material	500	0%	- €
	Total Costs 2007	18.150	23%	4.311,80 €

Financial Overview 2007¹

2.1.2007:	Bank investment:	25.317 €
	Bank account:	3.170 €
	cash	342 €

Total: 28.829 €

Expected income in 2007:

Membership fees:	6.500 €
Sales:	2.000 €
Other income:	2.500 €

Excellence Award (From Gaia Trust)	3.400 €
Grant Gaia Trust, July 07	12.000 €

Estimated Balance from EU grant 2006: 26.000 €

Total: 52.400 €

Complete Budget for 2007: 81.229 €

Expected expenditures in 2007:

Repayment of loan: 47.500 €

General Assembly: 9.000 €

Excellence Award: 1.400 €

Stationary and equipment costs: 2.750 €

Office costs: 3.500 €

Consulting/admin. Costs: 2.000 €

Travel costs 2.000 €

Costs for selling material 500 €

²

Total: 68.650 €

Money to play with: 12.579 €

¹ Update 26.6.2007

ANNEX 3. Responsibilities of the GEN-Europe secretariat

Office responsibilities

- General inquiries by email and
- Membership care (updating data base, membership fees administration)
- Preparation of GA
- Annual Reports for assembly (finances and activities)
- Reports council meetings, GA
- Finances and legal administration for the association
- Contact with GEN int., Next GEN/Youth org., Gaia University, Gaia Education
- Sell books

Technical Requirements:

- Good telephone line for phone and fax
- Fast internet connection

GEN-Europe owns a:

- Fax machine
- German mobile phone
- New Macbook (Laptop)
- Printer with Scanner
- Slide projector (not really working)
- Digital Camera

Costs:

- Rent ZEGG office 62,27 € per month
- Telephone, Fax, mobile phone costs: app. 40.- € per month

ANNEX 4. Proposal to encourage exchange visits between Ecovillages

COMMUNITY OF COMMUNITIES

This agreement between communities and Ecovillages is meant to support the personal friendship amongst communities and Ecovillages throughout Europe. It shall facilitate the exchange of members on a private level.

Participating intentional communities and ecovillages offer each others' members free lodging and, if possible, even free food. Ideally, visitors from other communities and ecovillages will be treated more like private guests than like tourists.

This means:

- No money is charged for lodging, but the standard may be very simple.
- Between zero and ten Euro are charged for food
- The length of the stay with such reduced fee is limited to whatever the host can offer
- The number of guests with such reduced fee is limited to whatever the host can offer

This agreement is meant for sharing normal everyday live, outside of organized events like seminars, conferences etc.

The host is offering these conditions on a voluntary basis, as long as it is affordable and suitable. The host names (at least) one person within his community who feels responsible for these community-exchange-guests to coordinate all the questions that go along with the stay.

The GEN EUROPE website offers a place where the list of participating communities is published with all necessary contact information, including, if possible, the price to be paid for the food. The list is self-organized, meaning that the participants can go there and add their name to the list or make changes themselves.

ANNEX 5. Reports of Open Space working groups

Open Space Group 1:

Best Practices for Creating and Maintaining National GEN Networks

Openspace 11 JULY 2007–07–11

Martin, Eberhart, Esa, Alex, Shahar, Lucilla, Macaco, Aquila Mare, Drazen, Jean Michelle, Insa, Laysan, Alfredo, Imre, Gabor, Muna, Alexander, (Ina)

Austrian Network initiated by group of individuals in the early stages of projects who understood the importance of networking. The existing projects were “well hidden”. The network grew out of meetings of individuals who wanted to create EV's

Elements of Austrian Network and organization:

There is a team of activists (8) – group of initiators of different levels of community work and commitment, some are not project members.

-The associated projects are without obligation. - no fee for associated projects / communities

-Summer Forum of 100-150 people (for introducing the idea, exchanging, meeting of the “scene” with Open Space, etc.) similar to GA of GEN,

-Exchange meetings of associated projects – quality time for exchange of ideas, and struggles of the individual projects for representative of associated project (weekend event)

-Homepage – a wiki environment – open and very simple writing access to all.

www.austrotopia.net with links to all projects, resources, matchmaking system with little administration (some spam robot protection is needed for certain web pages). For Summer Events an online registration form is the only means of registration, no telephone number is given – but a registration excel sheet is generated – very little administration.

- Newsletter written on a WIKI homepage and all members of team participate in adding material

- each team member has job. For example the newsletter page focalizer sends message that he/she is collecting information and posts link when it is compiled to around 300 Newsletter-receivers.

-there are regional representatives listed in website

- info emails can be sent via the website to regional representative

- 12 reps – 8 impressive existing communities and 4 new initiators. So the team is a combination of new and existing.

- it is difficult to engage existing projects into exchange mode. The way to engage them is by holding the exchange or team meeting at the project (host) and that creates personal relationships which pulls them in.

- the requested participation fee of summer forum is to underwrite network activities (brought in 1000 euros for travel costs for the team members) and raised the level of the participants (from hippies to serious folk).

- summer forum now has theme (to be interesting for team folk) “owning, exchanging, buying and gifting – ownership and finances of economical exchange”. Group with common economy, ethical bank participated.

- communication via skype (emails don't work for making decisions)

- no legal status, but an individual has bank account (student, no bank costs) for the team in order to have received funds from GEN and for registrations for the summer-forum.

- it works because we (the team) likes each other.

- newsletter goes out to around 300 people.

- press page on website with downloadable press packages and contacts for spokespeople. This is something that GEN can learn from and be better at producing.

There are defined goals (Mission) like to help in creating more projects and that if funds become available to work towards political work.

Is there talk of projects becoming members of GEN? – 2 have, and Martin will contact the others.

Team jobs: GEN connection, newsletter, technical website, summer forum subgroup

Next week a film team will cover the summer forum and press coverage . this did not occur in the past because it was not published. The press likes to cover panel discussions of specific subjects.

Austrotopia is a full member of GEN

BEN Balkan Ecovillage Network is very similar.

The summer forum is very similar to GEN GA's. 15-20 projects are presented. There will be a marketplace of communities (instead of an endless series of presentations) and projects and a few formal presentations of select projects. This year it will be held 20-22 JULY at Niederhof (8 families, great school, common economy).

There are 50 catholic communities and at least 20 others that are eco-communities. If co-housing projects are included then the number is higher and some are very interesting both on communal and architectural levels.

At this meeting the French, Danish, Finish, Hungarian, Balkan, Italian networks are represented. Netherlands and Israel want to create a network.

Eberhard – after the GEN and regional meetings there is a lowering of communication.

Lucilla – is there a role for national networks in GEN and what is their job? Are they to phase out?

Alex – what is needed to create national networks where they don't exist (obviously depend on individuals who will serve as catalysts and activist? Can existing networks increase in size for GEN funding and being more effective for effecting change in society?

Imre – national networks should communicate more in particular when they share a region. i.e. invitation to neighboring networks to events.

National networks are listed on the back side of GEN newsletter.

Insa – in Denmark there are functioning EV's, so if the networks would be the channel to and from GEN for disseminating information, in particular for policy issues. There is a communication problem and perhaps the national networks needs to be the collection point for information on activities and then convey it to GEN.

Martin – I will send Austrian newsletters to GEN (I only considered the passing of GEN info on). EV's are not a utilitarian term, perhaps not even communities for us.

Alfredo – a constitutional change for GEN could include that members of national networks are de facto members of GEN. National networks would be representatives of GEN. there are folk that are outside of both because they are unaware that either exist. Membership in GEN can be individual also.

Eberhard – I always understood that GEN-Europe is umbrella of national networks. In Denmark membership in DEVN includes GEN membership.

Imre – the Hungarian network is called the Network of Living Villages – this is received as “better” than being an Ecovillage. Some members do not want GEN membership because they feel they are better quality and do not need GEN services. I wonder what we (GEN) are offering EV’s and communities (in addition to the friendship).

Insa – our network is very inclusive, including companies, that by making them automatic GEN members (and voting rights) would have implications that need to be addressed.

Drazen – it would not be feasible for some of our BEN members to be in GEN, i.e. eco-education organization. Marijana is very efficient at passing GEN info onto our weblists.

Esa – we need a network because of finances. A full member GEN fee is too much for our communities (20 Euros to join national network). In order for them to want to directly join GEN then GEN needs to offer more - in addition to the services that the national network gives like information dissemination.

Laysan – I visited various EV’s to request that they join Russian network and/or GEN and did not succeed because I could not give them good reason (information is free on website). Perhaps the Vision of GEN-Europe needs to be clearer so that joining it would be more inviting. Anastasia movement has communities growing like mushrooms after the rain. From 4 communities 5 years ago, now 14. In each city there are initiatives and much web traffic. They do not want to join GEN because “what for?”.

Macaco – [macaco at damanhur.it](http://macaco.at.damanhur.it) automatic GEN membership is clearly not appropriate. But a lobby organization could be the pull to many. Property, building and work are areas that all communities need to deal with and our proposal for legal for legal changes at the EU level are uniting issues.

Lucilla - Dissemination of the Ecovillage concept is more of the core specialties of a network than the individual communities. At the beginning a network is important for general dissemination yet it does not remain important for the communities themselves (RIVE meeting will have 100, but few communities will be attending).

Drazen – without GEN, BEN could not have been organized – individuals that assist in addition to metaphoric and inspirational levels.

Ina – a national network links at least 2 projects, have at least one annual meeting, and the advocate for issues that need to be brought to GEN. I appreciate that discussions like this is needed and more continuity needs to occur.

Martin – motivation for communities to join national networks: 3 types of meeting

1. general meetings for the new public

2. team meetings for activist of the communities and initiatives (high quality for information sharing)
3. meetings geared for community members that are focused on their needs and hosted by places that have experiences to share.

Open Space Group 2:

Legal recognition of communities/ ecovillages in Italy and in the European Union

Introduction

The Italian and European law doesn't have a legal frame for the life experiences in communities and ecovillages.

Only in a few countries of the E.U. are already existing laws that foresee funding and special interventions due to the life in community.

In general the legal recognition allows it to use means through which communities and ecovillages can face social, economical and productive problems of vital importance for their growth: in the same time the state (European union) can count on the maximum transparency in organisation and administration of the communities /ecovillages, benefit from their initiatives that often take place in depressed areas and as a consequence reduce social, environmental costs and the costs of public structures such as health assistance.

Generally the aims of communitarian societies are directed towards spiritual growth and the formation of a society that helps in the competitive but non-violent integration between individuals and their integration with their territory and its resources.

The direct development of services, typical of micro societies, represents also an occasion to lower the costs of the public structures.

In order to formulate a proposal of law, ideas and special arguments are needed with clear and expressed goals that help experts to elaborate the text that will be examined by the national and European legislative organisms.

The Federation of Damanhur has been dealing with this argument since years: now it is important to share with others the proposals that can guarantee the experience of communitarian life in the state (intended also as E.U.)

Since 2001 the Federation has shared proposals and evaluations with the members of Conacreis (national coordination of communities and associations of ethical, inner and spiritual research).

In the last time members of the Italian and European parliament of the green party for peace declared their willingness to collaborate and sustain the presentation of such a law proposal.

Here are some ideas that the Federation has elaborated to give birth to an open discussion, intended as a base to define together the contents of such a law proposal.

Arguments for the law proposal that is of interest for the Communities /Ecovillages and the state (Italian state and European union)

There are three major areas of interest:

- The **property** of the goods, the structures, the territories used by the ecovillages, until now signed up to entities that are different of the

community itself (in Italy: cooperatives, associations, private people....). This leads to various kinds of problems, for example:

- 1) Obtaining funding by banks,
- 2) Heritage, in case of death of one of the signed up people, in favour of others not living in community,
- 3) Obtainments for the construction license in line with the needs of a community.
-
- The organization of **work** inside of the communities, getting financial release, that allows non-profit work without increasing economical and bureaucratically complications, risking also being accused of “black work”. Common to many communities is the visit of willing workers, that today is seen as fiscal evasion;
- Better **urban opportunities** that allow enlarging structures used by ecovillages with parameters that consider the needs of human groups as communities.
- **Economic contributions** and financial release in order to sustain the value and social usefulness of those who choose, living in an ecovillage, to contribute to the care of environment and the inhabitancy of territories otherwise left alone. For example: release on real estate taxes, waste taxes ecc.

ANNEX 6. Opening poem "A Hopi Elder speaks"

A Hopi Elder Speaks

"You have been telling the people that this is the Eleventh Hour, now you must go back and tell the people that this is the Hour. And there are things to be considered . . .

Where are you living?
What are you doing?
What are your relationships?
Are you in right relation?
Where is your water?
Know your garden.
It is time to speak your Truth.
Create your community.
Be good to each other.
And do not look outside yourself for the leader."

Then he clasped his hands together, smiled, and said, "This could be a good time!"

"There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold on to the shore. They will feel they are torn apart and will suffer greatly.

"Know the river has its destination. The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open, and our heads above water. And I say, see who is in there with you and celebrate. At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally, Least of all ourselves. For the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey comes to a halt.

"The time for the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves! Banish the word struggle from you attitude and your vocabulary. All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

"We are the ones we've been waiting for."

-- Attributed to an unnamed Hopi elder

Hopi Nation

2001 Oraibi, Arizona