Membership info & benefits

This document gives an overview of the Membership categories available at GEN Europe, the procedure of becoming full member, and the membership benefits. Please read the full document before applying for membership and choose the correct membership category. Note that to apply for membership at GEN Europe you need to send in a signed membership application form and transfer the membership fee to the GEN Europe bank account.

Membership categories

Individual members
Individual members are all the people that associate themselves with the work GEN-Europe does. Individual members wish to become part of our network, and will receive several benefits listed below, not least of which is being welcomed into a large, dynamically creative global family that is involved with developing the most vital paradigmatic movement in the world! While Individual members are not usually invited to the General Assembly, those who are well known to us may participate as observers on request.

*Individual members pay a yearly fee of 30-1000 Euro (sliding scale) as a support to the network or offer their time and expertise on a voluntary basis.*

Supportive organisations
GEN Europe supportive members are organisations who share the vision of the global ecovillage movement, and wish to support the work of GEN-Europe by becoming part of it. Supportive members receive several benefits listed below, but their main objective is to support GEN-Europe and its creative global family that is involved with developing the most vital paradigmatic movement in the world! While supportive members are not usually invited to the General Assembly, those who are well known to us may participate as observers on request.

*Supportive members pay a yearly membership fee of 100-1000 Euro (sliding scale).*

Aspiring members
Aspiring members are either ecovillage initiatives, communities in all stages of formation and development or forming thematic or national networks. Aspiring members are invited to the General Assembly but have no voting rights, and can only participate as listeners.

*Aspiring members pay a yearly membership fee of 50-1000 Euro (sliding scale).*
Full members

Full members are established ecovillages and ecovillage networks whose vision and goals are in accordance with the vision and goals of GEN Europe. Full members are actively engaged in the network, attend GAs, pay membership fees annually, respond to emails, and pass on information to their networks/communities etc.

Full members pay a yearly membership fee of 100-1000 Euro (sliding scale). The yearly membership fee is 100-1000 Euro (sliding scale), depending on the size of the ecovillage or ecovillage network and the GNI of the country in which the member is based.

You are invited to use our suggested way of calculating your membership fee:

Find your country in the list of sovereign states in Europe by GNI (nominal) per capita (source: World Bank, 2016).

**High income countries** (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Israel, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Malta)

- Full member ecovillages: 200 + 5 p/inhabitant
- Full member ecovillage network: 200 + 5 p/member

**Middle income countries** (Albania, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey)

- Full member ecovillages: 100+ 4 p/inhabitant
- Full member ecovillage network: 100 + 4 p/member

**Low income countries** (Armenia, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Ukraine, Palestine)

- Full member ecovillages: 60+3 p/inhabitant
- Full member ecovillage network: 60 + 3 p/member

Full member ecovillages

An ecovillage is a human-scale settlement consciously designed through participatory processes to secure long-term sustainability. Ecovillages are communities in which the inhabitants share goals as well as the use of property, the making of decisions and work. The level on which these are shared might be different from each community.

The Global Ecovillage Network has consultative status in the UN – ECOSOC
Established ecovillages
• have at least 8 permanent adult residents.
• have a common purpose and vision.
• have a community of people living together on the chosen site for at least 2 years, with a community structure and a decision-making process.
• aim at the creation of a new culture with a balance in the ecological, social, economic and worldview aspects.

Established ecovillage Networks
An Ecovillage Network is a network of ecovillages, intentional communities or like-minded projects. It can be national or (macro-)regional, cultural or bioregional. Ecovillage Networks can also be diverse networks that have a strong focus on community living, as well as thematic networks (networks that follow a particular philosophy, e.g. Krishna Communities, Camphill), whose vision and goals are in accordance with the vision and goals of GEN.

Established ecovillage networks
• have at least three established ecovillages or intentional communities associated
• have elected representatives
• are registered as an organisation
• have an email address and website
• organise network activities such as an annual gathering

Procedure to become a full member:
Full members are approved by the GEN Europe council if:
1) They have participated in a General Assembly and given a presentation to the members and council.
2) Or they are well known to the council.

Until full membership is granted ecovillages and ecovillage networks can join as aspiring members.

Rights and Obligations
Full members have voting rights at the General Assembly, as well as all the member benefits.
Membership Benefits

**Individual members**

- Being part of an international network dedicated to pioneering new models for equitable, sustainable communities in both urban and rural settings;
- Opportunities to develop new friendships and partnerships that support your dreams and visions;
- Free subscription to the GEN International Newsletter and the GEN Europe Internal Newsletter;
- Receive information about ongoing courses/events and other opportunities in Europe;
- Participation in the GEN Europe email lists (“general” list where you could initiate/take part in discussions with like-minded people and “announcements” list, where you could promote courses, events etc.);

**Supportive members**

All the above plus:

- Participation in the yearly European Ecovillage Conference for a reduced fee (10% discount) up to one person;
- Organizations and projects qualify for the annual €3,000 European Gaia Excellence Award;
- Organisations and projects have access to join partnerships and funded projects of GEN-Europe;

**Aspiring members**

All the above plus:

- An invitation to the General Assembly held prior to the yearly European Ecovillage Conference as observer;
- Free participation in the European Ecovillage Conference (for up to 1 person) * Under the condition one representative has attended the annual General Assembly;
- Opportunity to use the GEN Europe logo for representative purposes;
- Promotion of your courses, seminars and articles through the GEN-Europe website and GEN-Europe social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube);

**Full members**

All the above plus:

- Ecovillage/community members: free participation in the annual Global Ecovillage Network Conference (for up to three persons) * Under the condition one representative has attended the annual General Assembly

The Global Ecovillage Network has consultative status in the UN – ECOSOC
• National Network members: free participation in the annual Global Ecovillage Network Conference (for up to five persons) * Under the condition one representative has attended the annual General Assembly

• Option of up to 33% travel refund for participation at GEN Europe’s annual General Assembly (up to a maximum of 200 EUR)

• Access to financial support for members’ projects and national network meetings (when available)