

GEN Europe national network gathering

17-19 January, Torri Superiore



Participant countries

- Sweden
- Denmark
- Scotland
- Netherlands
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Italy
- Spain

- Estonia
- Poland
- Slovenia
- Turkey

- GEN Europe
Ulrike Schimmel
Macaco Tamarice



Torri Superiore

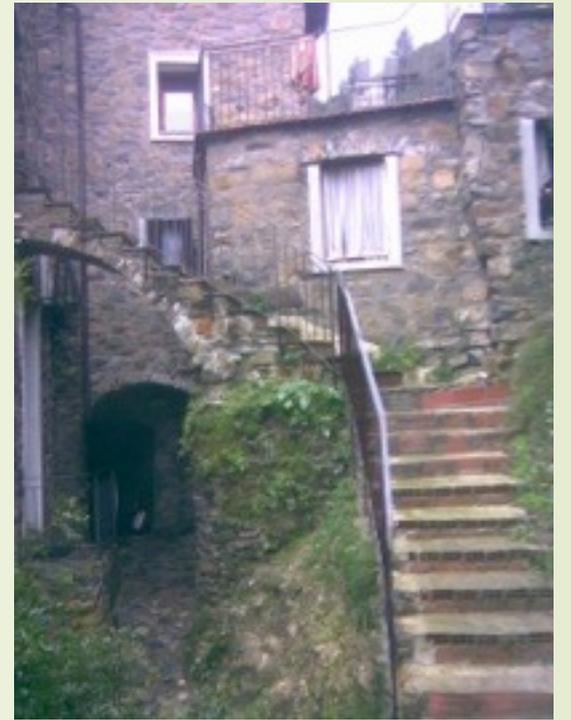




Torri Superiore



- ▶ The village Torri Superiore has existed for approx. 1000 years
- ▶ A group of houses that were slowly left after the second world war
- ▶ In 1996 some people purchased some houses and the guesthouse, starting the ecovillage. At the moment almost all houses are bought by the ecovillage people
- ▶ Ownership:
 - ▶ Guesthouse is owned by a non profit organisation
 - ▶ Living houses are owned privately
- ▶ 15 adults, 10 children
- ▶ Sources of income: everyone takes care for his/her own income. The guesthouse is common income







Main topics



- Relation between GEN Europe and national networks
- Fundraising, Grundtvig
- GEN International
- Websites / IT / GEN website
- Secondary topics... →



Secondary topics in working groups

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- Grundtvig mobility
 - Education and ecovillage incubator
 - GEN Europe and national networks
 - Grundtvig partnership
 - Spirit of Europe Tour
 - How to create a national network
 - Political strategy





World café

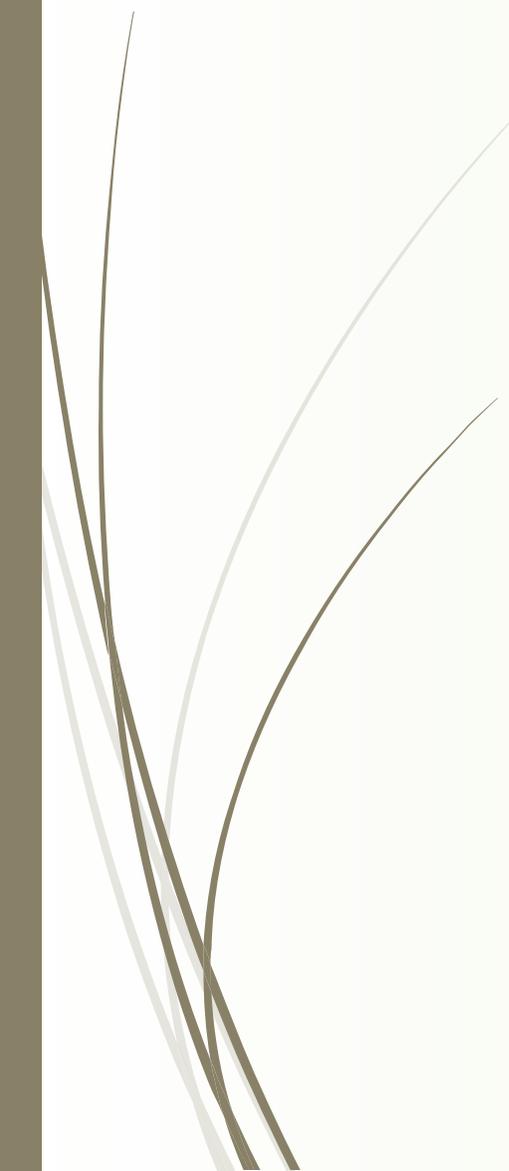
- ▶ How can the networks support each other?
 - ▶ National – national
 - ▶ National – GEN Europe
 - ▶ GEN Europe – national
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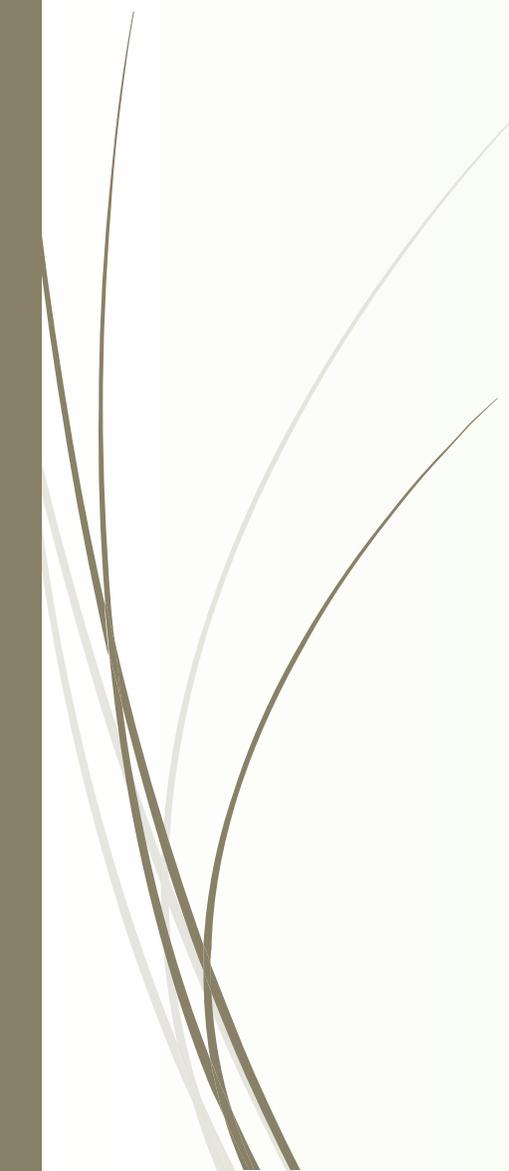


EXCHANGE of:

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- ▶ People
 - ▶ Visits, learning by doing, apprenticeships, wwoof/eco surfing
 - ▶ Youth exchange
 - ▶ Skills and knowledge
 - ▶ Mediation and conflict management
 - ▶ Good practices
 - ▶ Storytelling
 - ▶ Outreach
 - ▶ Media
 - ▶ Economy
 - ▶ Ecovillage Incubator



Impressions after 1st day

- In the whole of Europe networks are developing
 - Many networks are still in starting phase, some advanced
 - All networks share the same themes, however with different accents
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Day 2





Fundraising



- ▶ Erasmus+ program (2014 – 2020)
 - ▶ EU program for education, training, youth and sport
 - ▶ ‘New Grundtvig’
- ▶ Aim: the development of skills and knowledge
 - ▶ Participation at courses, trainings, workshops
 - ▶ ‘Job shadowing’
 - ▶ Teaching assignments
- ▶ Funds are important for:
 - ▶ trainings, such as EDE, PDC, Dragon Dreaming, Sociocracy, GEN conference etc.





Issues relevant for national networks

(for more detailed information see the Powerpoint presentation by Ulrike Schimmel)

- ▶ A national organisation has to apply instead of individuals:
 - ▶ Not for 2 or 3 persons, but 100?
 - ▶ “European Business Development Plan” is necessary
- ▶ Sending organisation is applicant
- ▶ An international working group of fundraisers within GEN works on a draft application for all countries.
- ▶ Make this draft available for your country
- ▶ Deadline 17 march (mobility) and 30 april (partnerships)

Funds – other possibilities

- Grundtvig: two programs
 - Mobility
 - Partnerships
- National funds, government
- INTERREG (EU)
- Erasmus internships
- Youth in action
- Research: Horizon 2020
- CLLD (Community-Led Local Development)
- Crowd funding





GEN International (since 1995)

- (Re-) organisation for more unity
- Regions
 - GEN Europe
 - ENA (N en S America)
 - GENOA (Oceania & Asia)
 - CASA (Latin America)
 - GEN Africa
 - NextGEN (Youth)





GEN sites



- ▶ Host for ecovillage websites and national networks
 - ▶ Contribution of web content by ecovillages and national networks !!
- ▶ Database about ecovillages, events, teachers, etc.
- ▶ Documents, articles, news, etc.
- ▶ Has to be completed (90% works)
 - ▶ Moderator for each national network
 - ▶ Translators
 - ▶ Testing
 - ▶ Etc.

End of day 2

- Lots of information about EU funding
- Information about GEN International
- IT and GEN website

- Main topics were discussed in plenary sessions
- Tomorrow secondary topics in working groups



Day 3





Workshops



- ▶ Session 1
 - ▶ Grundtvig mobility
 - ▶ Education and ecovillage incubator
 - ▶ GEN Europe and national networks

- ▶ Session 2
 - ▶ Grundtvig partnership
 - ▶ Spirit of Europe Tour
 - ▶ How to create a national network





Grundtvig mobility



- ▶ Draft application by fundraisers group will be available (february)
- ▶ Action points:
 - ▶ Contact national agency for information
 - ▶ Each organisation needs to attain a PIC (Participant Identity Code)
 - ▶ Identify training needs and offers through Google Docs
 - ▶ Report to own network

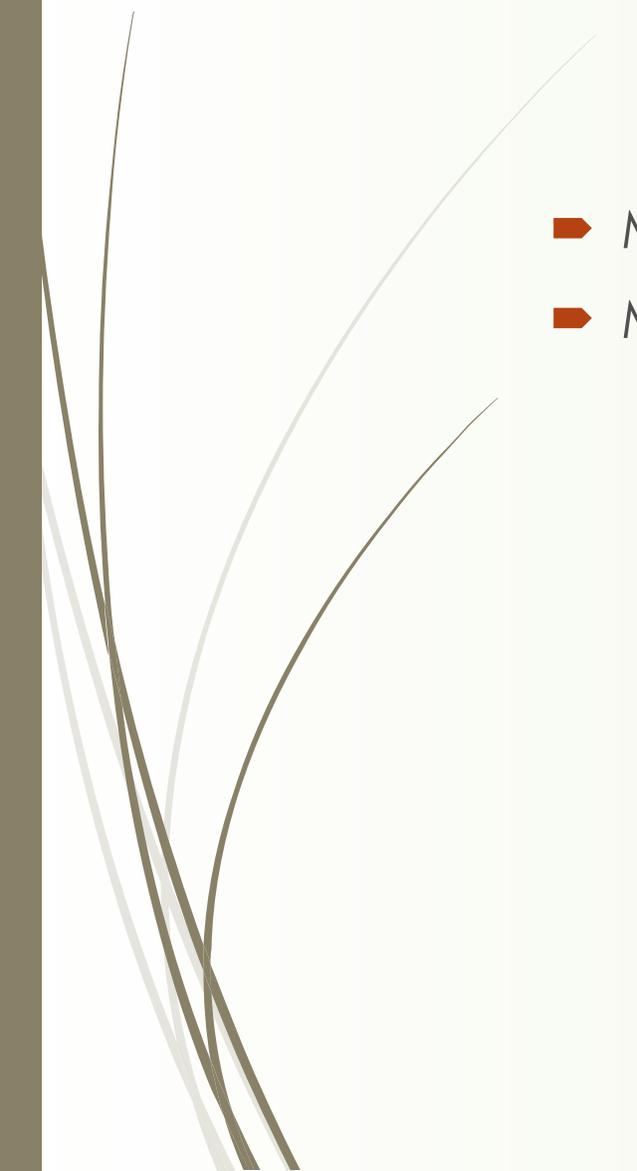


Education and ecovillage incubator

- There is a difference between 'dreamers' and 'starters' (people that are committed but who have no experience)
 - 'Dreamers' (no land yet)
 - Courses such as EDE, PDC, Sociocracy etc.
 - 'Starters' (they have land)
 - Incubator team by experienced trainers (living in ecovillages)
 - Incubator team has to focus at strong and weak points, and needs
 - Documentation
 - Regional cooperation (with neighbouring national networks)
 - Translate RIE and RIVE incubator documents
 - Make a list of trainers and facilitators
- 



GEN Europe and national networks

- Mapping out history and current structure of GEN
 - Make a draft proposal with governing structure based on equivalence, transparency, flexibility and efficiency
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Grundtvig partnership

- Ecovillage education and incubator
 - Get information at national agencies about partnerships, application procedure etc.
 - Danish network maybe 'Lead partner' for ecovillage incubator project
 - Plans:
 - Writing a proposal
 - Skype meetings
 - Use Google Docs
- 



Spirit of Europe Tour

- In 2006 a group tour (Karavan 2006) in Spain with many workshops
- Idea: a group tour in Europe
 - Focus 2015 or 2016
 - Proposal to finish in Findhorn, Scotland (GEN conference in 2015)
- Planning:
 - Funds
 - Organize meetings (first in May 2014)
 - Media outreach
 - Presentation of plans at GEN conference 2014 in ZEGG



How to create a national network

- ▶ Make an inventory of existing national networks
 - ▶ GEN Conference:
 - ▶ Short presentations of national networks
 - ▶ Create a guideline to organize national networks
 - ▶ 6-13 july next GEN conference
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Political strategy



- ▶ What do we want exactly? Do we only want to live in a community? Or do we also want political influence?
 - ▶ Appoint ONE 'public' person for media outreach
 - ▶ Be clear about who you are and what you want
 - ▶ Use a positive strategy, be 'in favour' instead of 'opposed to'
- ▶ Planning (by working group)
 - ▶ Make a (draft) strategy paper
 - ▶ Make a (draft) ecovillage charter with ethics, values etc.
 - ▶ Participatory / co creative process; identification of GEN grassroots with strategy paper and charter
 - ▶ Discuss at GEN General Assembly

THANK YOU!

