



# GEN EUROPE

## MEMBER'S GUIDE

2021



GEN EUROPE  
GLOBAL  
ECOVILLAGE  
NETWORK

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## PART ONE: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Are you new to GEN Europe? Has your community been part of GEN Europe, but you never knew what all the fuss was about or you just need a little refresher? Then this is your guide!

In GEN Europe we want to involve and inform our members as well as possible, and have compiled this guide with all-you-need-to-know information about your membership, what are the possibilities in our network, and what you have committed yourself to as a member!

### A WELCOME AND BRIEF HISTORY OF GEN EUROPE

Since 1996, it's been our mission to support and connect the ecovillage movement, encourage ecovillage development, educate for sustainability and ultimately create a world where empowered local communities are at the forefront of creating a fairer society that regenerates the earth, and ourselves.

We are powered by our members: over 100 ecovillages and aspiring ecovillage projects, and 18 national ecovillage networks in 26 countries and counting. Together, we educate, advocate and innovate, through events, courses, meetings and projects.

GEN Europe is part of the Global Ecovillage Network: an ever-growing network of thousands of regenerative communities and initiatives that bridges cultures, countries, and continents through its five regional networks and its international youth branch, NextGEN.



# MEET THE TEAM

Our staff members are mainly based at our executive office in Arterra Bizimodu, Spain. However, we also have our legal office in Germany, in ZEGG ecovillage, where we are a registered non-profit organisation.

## MEET THE PERMANENT STAFF MEMBERS



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IT MANAGER  
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# OUR VALUES, VISION AND MISSION

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## VALUES

There are many values that we as members of the GEN network share and propagate through the work that we do. The following five value headings are representing themes that we care about:

- Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
- Inclusion and Participation
- Community and Cooperation
- Diversity
- Ecological, Economical, Cultural and Social Sustainability and a whole system approach

## VISION

What we see, when we look into the future we strive for, is:  
*A conscious, resilient and sustainable Europe where ecovillage and community values and lifestyles are widely adopted to promote transformation and life generating culture.*

## MISSION

We build a network of ecovillages across Europe, including regional and national ecovillage networks, which promote ecovillage strategies and ecovillage values, share knowledge and support the realisation of thriving communities.



# OUR AIMS



### TO SUPPORT:

Ensuring an organisational and financial sustainable network and strong relationships with members; building our collective capacity to inspire and enable the creation of new communities and new networks of communities.



### TO BECOME STRONGER:

Connecting communities to promote innovation and the exchange of experiences and knowledge; capacity building and education for members.



### TO INFLUENCE AND REACH OUT:

Promoting ecovillage lifestyles for the transition to a resilient society and presenting effective community-led solutions to global challenges; strengthening GEN EU's position at EU level, its influence and impact.

# OUR MEMBERS

## INTERACTIVE MAP OF MEMBER ECOVILLAGES

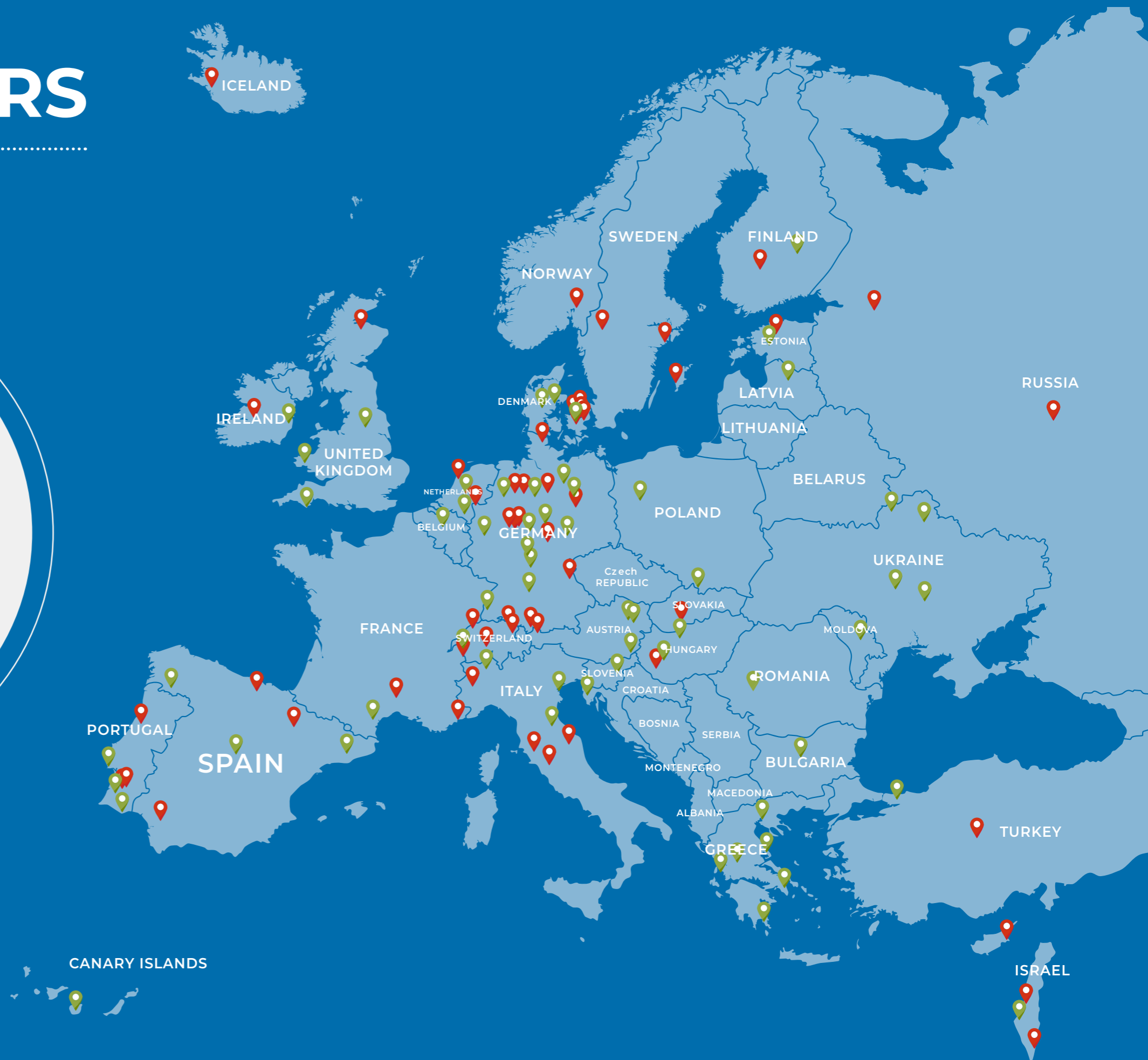
CLICK HERE



FULL MEMBERS



ASPIRING MEMBERS



COUNTRY & NATIONAL NETWORK	FULL MEMBERS OF GEN EUROPE (64)	ASPIRING MEMBERS OF GEN EUROPE (44)
AUSTRIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Gemeinschaft Sulzbrunn</a></li> <li><a href="#">Leben in Gemeinschaft</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Garten der Generationen</a></li> </ul>
BULGARIA Bulgarian Ecovillage Network		
CZECH REPUBLIC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Zeměsounění</a></li> </ul>
DENMARK LOES Landsforeningen for Okosamfund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Ananda Gaorii</a></li> <li><a href="#">Dyssekilde</a></li> <li><a href="#">Hallingelille</a></li> <li><a href="#">Munksogard</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Andelssamfundet i Hjortshøj</a></li> <li><a href="#">Hawila Project</a></li> <li><a href="#">Himmelbjerggården</a></li> <li><a href="#">OASIS</a></li> </ul>
ESTONIA GEN Estonia/ EESTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Lilleoru</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Väike Jalajälg</a></li> </ul>
FINLAND GEN Finland SKEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Keuruu Ecovillage</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Pohjois-Savon Yhteisökyllä Osuuskunta</a></li> </ul>
FRANCE Colibris - Le mouvement Coopérative Oasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Hameau des Buis</a></li> </ul>	



Members are listed when the membership fees are not due longer than 3 years. This means that if a member did not pay its membership fee since 2018, the membership benefits are revoked and the member will automatically be taken off of the map, mailing lists and other benefits listed.

GERMANY GEN Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Communaite de l'Arche</a></li> <li><a href="#">Gastwerke e.V.</a></li> <li><a href="#">Grundstein Neukirchen</a></li> <li><a href="#">Heilhaus Gemeinschaft</a></li> <li><a href="#">Lebensgarten Steyerberg</a></li> <li><a href="#">Nature Community</a></li> <li><a href="#">Schloss Tempelhof</a></li> <li><a href="#">Sieben Linden</a></li> <li><a href="#">Stamm der Likatier</a></li> <li><a href="#">Vlierhof</a></li> <li><a href="#">ZEGG</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Ecovillage e.v</a></li> <li><a href="#">Eichenwaeld</a></li> <li><a href="#">Gemeinschaftsbildung</a></li> <li><a href="#">Gemeinschaftskeimling / Community Sprout</a></li> <li><a href="#">Go&amp;Change</a></li> <li><a href="#">Puls der Erde</a></li> </ul>
GREECE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Korogonas Ark</a></li> <li><a href="#">Nea Guinea - School of the Earth</a></li> <li><a href="#">Terra Sylvestris</a></li> </ul>
HUNGARY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Mariahalom Biofalu</a></li> <li><a href="#">Nyim Ecovillage</a></li> </ul>
ICELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Sólheimar</a></li> </ul>	
IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Cloughjordan Ecovillage</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Derrybawn</a></li> </ul>
ISRAEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Kibbutz Lotan</a></li> <li><a href="#">Kibutz Gezer</a></li> </ul>	
ITALY RIVE – Rete Italiana Villaggi Ecologici	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Bagnaia</a></li> <li><a href="#">Comunita di Etica Vivente</a></li> <li><a href="#">Damanhur</a></li> <li><a href="#">La Citta Della Luce</a></li> <li><a href="#">Torri Superiore</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Ananda Assisi</a></li> <li><a href="#">Borgo Basino</a></li> <li><a href="#">Diversity Living lab</a></li> <li><a href="#">Zonca</a></li> </ul>

COUNTRY & NATIONAL NETWORK	FULL MEMBERS OF GEN EUROPE (64)	ASPIRING MEMBERS OF GEN EUROPE (44)
LATVIA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Smiltenei un Latvijai</a></li> </ul>
MOLDOVA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Ecovillage Moldova</a></li> </ul>
NETHERLANDS GEN Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Ecodorp Bergen</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Ecodorp Boekel</a></li> </ul>	
NORWAY Norske Økosamfunn Forening		
POLAND		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Ecovillage Bhругu Aranya</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Zielonowo</a></li> </ul>
PORTUGAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Tamera</a></li> </ul>	
RUSSIAN FEDERATION REEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Kind Land</a></li> </ul>	
SLOVAKIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Zajezka</a></li> </ul>	
SLOVENIA Sunny Hill Slovenia		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Sunny Hill ecovillage</a></li> </ul>

SPAIN RIE Red Ibérica de Ecoaldeas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amalurra</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Arterra Bizimodu</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Los Portales</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earth You</li> <li>• <a href="#">Possibilica</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Valdepielagos</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Vidalia</a></li> </ul>
SWEDEN Baltic Ecovillage Network GEN Sweden - Ekobyarnas Riksorganisation ERO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Ängsbacka</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Charlottendal</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Suderbyn</a></li> </ul>	
SWITZERLAND GEN Suisse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">La Smala</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Schloss Glarisegg</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Schweibenalp – Zentrum der Einheit</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sennrüti</a></li> </ul>	
TURKEY Turkish National Network Ecoyer 8100-Ecovillage Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Günesköy</a></li> </ul>	
UKRAINE GEN Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Zeleni Kruchi</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Art-village Obyrok</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Community of Family Estates and Eco Estates Sviatolissia</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Ecovillage Bezikov</a></li> </ul>
UNITED KINGDOM GEN-WISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Findhorn Foundation</a></li> <li>• NFA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Bowden House Community</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Middlesbrough Urban Ecovillage</a></li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">ECOBASA</a></li> </ul>

## PART TWO:

# A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

### MEMBERSHIP: AN EXCHANGE

Being a member of GEN Europe is really great! You are welcomed into a large, dynamic and creative global family that is involved with developing the most vital paradigmatic movement in the world. You get access to free help and support, a network of knowledgeable, kind and supportive people that will help you and your community achieve far more than would have been possible alone. In exchange we ask you to share useful information with the GEN Europe staff team, and give back to the network as much as you can, to keep it healthy, growing and thriving.



Here are some benefits and expectations as a member of the network.

## WHAT YOU GET

- Access to our members' **mailing lists**.
- Staying informed through our **newsletter and annual circular**.
- A platform for publicising your community through our **newsletter, social media channels, podcast** and other opportunities.
- Opportunities to participate in a range of **funded projects** as a partner.
- Opportunities for **funded training** in sociocracy, ecovillage incubation, project creation, advocacy and more.
- Eligibility to receive the annual 3000 EUR **Hildur Jackson award** for inspiring projects.
- Access to our **Website Setup Service** for a dedicated web theme for your ecovillage.
- The chance to send your youth members to youth **exchanges or volunteering** placements in ecovillages across Europe.
- Valuable **networking** and experience in participating in sociocratic organisation and governance at the General Assembly, our national networks meeting, and working groups.
- Reduced prices for the **annual gathering** for a number of delegates.
- The possibility to participate in **ECOLISE, Green Phoenix, and other events** as representatives of GEN Europe.
- The possibility of participating in **research studies** on ecovillages.
- Feed-in your information and challenges to inform our **European advocacy** work for ecovillages.



# WHAT CAN YOU GIVE BACK

- Your **annual membership fee**, which enables us to run the office and network activities that support our members.
- Your **time and expertise** in one of our working groups.
- **News items, photos and information** about your ecovillage or network for our newsletter, annual circular, social media and website.
- **Promoting GEN Europe** in your local or national media and events (contact us for help and support in this area).
- Share **ideas, skills, resources and best practices** with GEN Europe.

## FRIENDLY REMINDER

We will always do our best to give support and meet your needs, but we are a small and often stretched staff team, so this may not always be possible straight away. Please be patient and kind to us and think of other people in the network you may be able to ask for advice as well.

If you want to remind yourself of the technical details/ criteria for membership, please look at the [Membership requirements, benefits and obligations document](#).



# NETWORK PARTICIPATION

GEN Europe is successful because there is a constant exchange of energy, ideas and support between network members. Collectively we are facing big challenges, but our strength lies in the way we support each other and work together to achieve our shared aims and vision. There are many ways to participate in the network, and each group does it differently, but here are some ways to get involved:



1 Join one of the 9 [GEN Europe Working groups](#) and work with others on similar themes or issues.

2 Host one of our events, such as the Annual European Ecovillage Gathering, the National Networks meeting, or trainings.

3 Work with other GEN Europe members to deliver a project or training.

4 Trade with or buy produce from other members of the network.

5 Send youths or youth workers to one of our Erasmus+ trainings, European Solidarity corps volunteering opportunities.

6 Send us events, stories, quality photos or other content to share through our website and social media channels.

7 Ask for or offer advice, ideas and knowledge.

8 Share GEN Europe's news on your social media & newsletters.

9 Organise an event to promote GEN Europe on the European Day of Sustainable Communities, or any other day.

10 Keep flyers and information about GEN Europe available at your reception or community message board.

11 Organise a [screening of our documentary](#) to spread the word about ecovillages.

12 Become a GEN ambassador! Find information [here](#).



# HOW TO STAY IN TOUCH

GET IN CONTACT WITH US



## EMAIL

[secretariat@gen-europe.org](mailto:secretariat@gen-europe.org)  
[membership@gen-europe.org](mailto:membership@gen-europe.org)

If you want to reach a specific staff member find their emails at the beginning or this guide: [meet the staff](#)



## ADDRESS

GEN Europe office: Calle Abajo 1, 31480 Artieda, Spain  
ZEGG office: 14806 Bad Belzig, Germany



## PHONE

GEN Europe office Spain:  
+34 948988181



## WEBSITE

[www.gen-europe.org](http://www.gen-europe.org)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow GEN Europe's social media channels:

[Facebook](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[Instagram](#)



- We also have [Facebook group](#) to encourage conversation, information exchange and to find members and volunteers for your community.
- Send us events, news, pictures, videos of what you are getting up to, so we can share with a wider audience. We can also post info and updates as blog posts on our website.

## MAILING LIST

As part of your membership you have been subscribed to our mailing lists, which you are free to use to reach out to the rest of the GEN Europe family. Please take into consideration that people have different needs around the way we use emails to connect to each other in-between meetings.

- Announcements are for sharing short pieces of information like events, links, things that will be interesting for most of us. Don't reply to emails on the announcements list, reply to the sender only (default setting) or to general (most people are on both lists). You can send an email to the announcements list by sending your email to this mailing address: [announcements@gen-europe.org](mailto:announcements@gen-europe.org)

- General is open also for discussion, for comments, more specialised topics. More traffic, discussion, exchange is explicitly wanted here. You can send an email to the general list by sending your email to this mailing address: [general@gen-europe.org](mailto:general@gen-europe.org) Always post to one or the other, not both.

## NEWSLETTER

Make sure you are subscribed to the [GEN Europe newsletter!](#) This is aimed at the general public, but it is also a good way to keep up to date with our news.

## MEMBER CONTACT

Keep your contact person's information up to date. We register you as a member using the membership application form. If your email changes, or your contact person changes, make sure to inform us to keep being updated and not miss vital information and opportunities for your community.

# NETWORK STRUCTURE

We're a non-profit organisation, and our day-to-day functions are served by the Secretariat, a staff team that takes care of daily operations and enacting the organisation's strategy.



Guiding the Secretariat is our oversight body, the Council to hold our vision by the General Assembly. The General Assembly, made up of all full member ecovillages, makes proposals, debates and approves decisions and strategic direction for the organisation. Besides participating in the General Assembly annually, members are involved in GEN Europe's work through Working Groups, such as Advocacy, National Networks, Youth and Projects.

As a regional member of the Global Ecovillage Network, GEN Europe representatives take part in GEN's general assembly and board, sharing news from the region and helping steer the organisation.

True to ecovillage values of participatory, shared and transparent governance, we aim to work sociocratically, which means creating a governance structure based on consent decision making, self organising principles and feedback loops. It is "governance by peers", a process for creating harmonious organisations, based on equivalence, efficiency, flexibility and transparency. The key value is that all individuals are acknowledged and collective intelligence is a source of inspiration and creativity.

This is a continuous learning process and work in progress, held by the Governance working group, made up of experts in Sociocracy.

Our council is elected yearly at the General Assembly. Only representatives from full member ecovillages or national networks are able to be elected into the council. The term for a council member is 2 years, and each year we elect two council members while 2 leave to ensure continuity.



# PART THREE: ALSO IMPORTANT TO KNOW

## USEFUL INFO AND RESOURCES

- You can find our full FAQ [here](#).
- You can find a range of our public materials, including ecovillage brochures and flyers, freely available in our public Drive [here](#).
- You can find our legal documents and statutes [here](#).
- For support in all aspects of community building, the CLIPS guide has been developed by a team of experienced ecovillagers. Download it [here](#).



Do you think  
something is missing?  
Please let us know.



**GEN EUROPE**  
GLOBAL  
ECOVILLAGE  
NETWORK

## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

### FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD



Global Ecovillage Network of Europe  
Calle Abajo 1, 31480 Artieda, Spain



[membership@gen-europe.org](mailto:membership@gen-europe.org)



[www.gen-europe.org](http://www.gen-europe.org)

