



Extraordinary Newsletter - GREECE

DEAR FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF GEN WORLDWIDE

During a rich GEN+20 Summit in Findhorn (Scotland) from July 6-11 (read the report from the GEN+20 Summit [here](#)), many challenging things happened in the world, changing the lives of some participants among us. Severe floods in Bangladesh, military tanks threatening the Peace Community San José de Apartadó in Colombia, land-related conflicts around an ecovillage in South Africa, military action in Turkey and Syria. These were just some of the issues brought to our attention while we were celebrating positive change, global solutions on a local scale and ecovillage strategies.



We also gave witness to the Greek Referendum and the European negotiations concerning the severe economic crisis in Greece. Many of us felt that as a Community, Europe has failed: it failed in solidarity, in generosity, in its commitment for sustainability and a future that would be fair to all. The people of Greece are doomed to even more economic insecurity, destruction of communities, loss of jobs, dismantling of health and social systems. Many of us hold the reasonable fear that countries like Portugal and Spain may follow.

Here you can read **statements** that we published during the GEN summit:

- [We all are Greece - A declaration of Action and Solidarity](#)
- [A Letter from Greece: Taking Action in Times of Crisis](#)
- [Open Letter to the German Government: Not In Our Name](#)
- [And An Open Letter to Alexis Tsipras by Leila Dregger / Tamera](#)

Some articles giving **background information** about the crisis:

- [Yanis Varoufakis full transcript: our battle to save Greece](#)
- [Jennifer Hinton's article in the Guardian: This endless quest for growth will see Greece self-destruct](#)
- [P2Pfoundation: Plan C for Advancing the Commons Transition in Greece](#)

As we have experienced before, any crisis can turn into an opportunity! Let's work together and use that opportunity to provide Greece with solidarity, knowledge and support to become a leading country in sustainable strategies at all levels.

A working group formed during the summit with an intention to explore how we as an ecovillage movement can support Greece in these times of crisis. We decided to join forces and to focus on supporting ecovillage development in Greece with expertise, volunteers and a fundraising campaign. There are many grassroots initiatives working already in Greece. If we support them with know-how about autonomy in water, food and energy, about local and fair economies, about community building, then the worst consequences of the crisis could be mitigated. Let us support some of the projects in Greece to develop into vibrant learning and living centers for sustainability, autonomy and resilience into the future.



Here is what we planned

Strategy Meeting

[Ecovillage Skala](#) (close to Thessaloniki) is an aspiring member of GEN Europe whose founders were present at the GEN summit. They will host a network meeting from *August 29-30* ([View event on Facebook](#)). This meeting will be supported by Zisula Kourdaki from ZEGG and Rinio Kourdaki from Athens. During this meeting we want to plan forthcoming activities, supported by GEN, Gaia Education, Earth Deeds and the Grace Foundation: We see EDE courses happening in Greece, carried out by experienced trainers, funded by all our support and voluntary work. We see the possibility of an Eco Caravan, visiting the most vibrant grassroots initiatives, villages, and projects, teaching and sharing knowledge of ecovillage experience for sustainability. Let's use the 2 days to plan all forth-coming activities.

EDE

GEN member [Kalikolos Holistic Center](#) offers to host the 1st EDE course - Ecovillage Design Education - in Greece. The Kalikolos Team will be at the Strategy Meeting in Skala and decide there together about the best dates for EDE courses.

First Learning Opportunity - Water and Permaculture

From *22 – 30 August 2015*, Ecovillage Skala will host a Community meeting to share knowledge about sustainability in water and growing food – two basic fields of knowledge to break free from dependency on the global money system. Jay Abrahams from UK and Bernd Müller from Tamera will be there to share knowledge and help create a Constructed Wetland Systems and plan a water retaining landscape.

We also plan to build the first biogas model installation with the help of Martin Funk. In October, there will be a workshop with Matthew Slater on Local Exchange Systems.

You are more than welcome to **join the activities**. Let's be the change. Here are some options for you to act in solidarity:

1. **Make holidays in Greece**, enjoy the beauty of the country, spend lots of Euros there!
2. **Visit and volunteer**, take part in one of the activities and help to build the systems of sustainability. Click [here](#) to find an overview about *communities and grassroots initiatives* in Greece. Write to Anna Fillipou: filippuanna@yahoo.gr

3. **Donate your expertise** in one of the needed fields – teach in EDE courses, the Eco Caravan or Skala ecovillage. Write to Anna Filippou: filippuanna@yahoo.gr
4. **Make a financial donation.** Ecovillage Skala or Kalikolos do not want to receive any money to sustain themselves, but funding support is needed for materials and travel costs of the specialist trainers. Gaia Education, GEN, Earth Deeds and Grace Foundation together ask you to support and transfer the money either with Earthdeeds.org or from Europe use the paypal account: info@the-grace-foundation.org or transfer the money to the account of the Grace Foundation: Raiffeisenbank Zürich, IBAN: CH9881487000009218869, BIC: RAIFCH22.
Use the keyword: "We are Greece!"

Let's create a hot summer of strong and effective activities. For a thriving Greece, for European solidarity.

The "We are Greece" working group of the GEN+20 Summit



The Global Ecovillage Network is a registered charity: SC043796 and has consultative status in the UN – ECOSOC.

Visit our website at: gen.ecovillage.org

