

18 - 27/5/2026

(including travel days)

Building Bridges

Hopeland, Malandreni, Greece

ECOSystems Youth Mobility



What the "Building Bridges" Youth Mobility is about

Building Bridges in a nutshell

- Live 8 days at Hopeland, an educational eco-community in southern Greece
- Become part of a group of around 35 young people from Italy, Spain, France, Greece and Belgium, and step into the full Hopeland experience – supported by the team and crew throughout the journey.
- Roll up your sleeves, bring your ideas to life, and take part in hands-on activities that care for the space, strengthen sustainable practices, and help the place evolve.
- Experience living and working together in a community, embracing the challenges and opportunities that come with it.



Along the way, you'll develop skills and knowledge across three areas:

- **Ecological competences** – permaculture, composting, water management and eco-building: learning how to read and care for a living landscape.
- **Community living skills** – simple living, empathy and communication, and collective decision-making: discovering what it actually takes to live well together.
- **Global citizenship** – connecting your experience at Hopeland to wider global challenges through a deep ecology approach: understanding how small, local actions ripple outward.

All while making real connections, picking up new skills, and finding genuine joy in doing things together.

Main focus and approach

Hands-on activities will be at the heart of the experience, focusing on improving the space and its sustainability. During the project, you'll take part in maintaining existing structures, and enhancing overall infrastructure through gardening, eco-building, landscaping, woodworking, and more.

Alongside these, the community shares practical daily tasks such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, managing social media, watering the gardens, and caring for animals.

Learning through the land: the programme follows a natural arc inspired by permaculture itself: we begin by slowing down and observing before we act. The first days are about rooting into the place – reading the landscape, understanding its rhythms, and developing the eye to see patterns in a living system. Knowledge here comes from direct experience, not a classroom.
always open to all.

Inner regeneration embedded throughout the week are practices that support your inner life and connection— body and emotional awareness, mindfulness, building inner-balance, self awareness and group trust.

Throughout your stay, you'll rotate through different activities, getting a feel for everything. If something sparks your interest, there's space to dive deeper and develop your skills.



Main focus and approach

Shared responsibility: As the week progresses, the community becomes yours to care for. Tending the space, cooking together, making decisions collectively – these are the experience. You'll discover what it takes to live and work together, with all the richness and friction that brings.

Community and networking: Hopeland is also a space for collaboration and exchange. We will invite our friends from nearby eco-communities, to share their expertise in gardening and permaculture.

From self to society: the journey moves outward – from your own inner experience, to the community around you, to the wider world. Through shared reflection and global education, you'll connect what you're living at Hopeland to broader questions of sustainability, solidarity, and social change.

Peer exchange and participant-led action: by the final days, the initiative is yours. There is dedicated time for skill-sharing and participant-led workshops – a space to offer something from your own knowledge or passions. Completely voluntary.



You'll discover what it takes to live and work together, with all the richness and friction that brings. Hands in the soil. Hearts in the community. Eyes on the world.

For who

The team will be 36 young people from partner countries (6 per country).

Participants:

- Young people aged 18-30
- From Greece, Italy, Belgium, Spain, France
- Interested in eco-communities, sustainable living and green practices (i.e. permaculture, eco-building, recycle and reuse)
- Passion for establishing their eco-projects and visual media
- Ready to live in a rural environment with basic conditions, and open to sharing space, responsibilities, and decision-making with others in a communal setting
- Enthusiastic with hands-on activities and practical tasks like gardening, building, cooking, cleaning
- Priority will be given to those that are facing or faced any kind of troubles in life
- Basic English communication skills, as it will be a multicultural living environment



*Priority to fewer opportunities participants
* Bonus: interested in video making /filming/editing and would love to contribute to the development of a promotional video we will be working on.

Timeline of the Project

18.05.2026
Arrival Day



19-26.05.2026
Programme Days

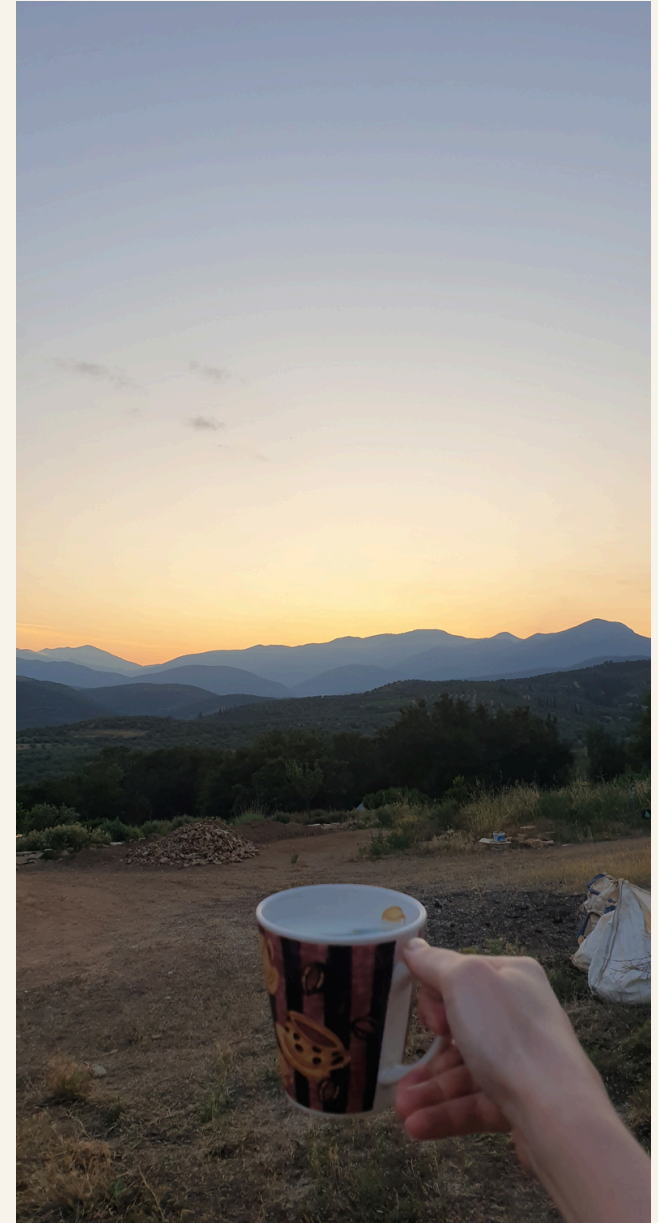


27.05.2026
Departure Day



Daily Schedule

8:00-9:00	Breakfast & community cleaning
9:00-10:00	Opening morning Community circle
10:00-13:00	Morning session: hands-on work in hopeland venue
13:00-15:00	<i>Lunch and siesta</i>
15:00-18:00	Afternoon session: workshops and open space for activities
18:00-19:00	Reflection and integration
19:00-20:00	Dinner



Program



Day 1

| **SETTLING IN** - Landing and setting up group dynamic

Day 2

| **ROOTING IN THE LAND** - First immersion into permaculture: dive deep into permaculture practices with the contribution of experts from other eco-initiatives

Day 3

| **LANGUAGE OF NATURE** - Immersive permaculture workshop, deepening practice and observation, with the contribution of experts from other eco-initiatives

Day 4

| **MEETING THE ECOSYSTEM** - Immersive permaculture workshop, deepening practice and observation, with the contribution of experts from other eco-initiatives.

Day 5

| **CARING FOR THE PLACE** - Stepping into shared responsibility through practical work

Day 6

| **SHAPING THE COMMONS** - Co-creating and improving the space together

Day 7

| **TAKING INITIATIVE** - Skill-sharing, workshops, and participant-led actions

Day 8

| **HARVEST & REFLECTION** - Closing, integration, celebration

The Team



Veronica Spagna
Facilitator

Veronica works in international cooperation and European youth programs as a project writer and facilitator. She holds a Master's degree in Local and Global Development from the University of Bologna and has spent the past years supporting learning experiences for young people across different cultural contexts.

Her work focuses on human rights, sustainability, fair trade, and migration, using non-formal education methods such as embodiment practices, arts, and hands-on creative activities. She believes change begins through experience – and that cooperative, creative learning can help people connect more deeply with themselves, others, and the world around them.



Paula Fernández-Gallardo
Facilitator

She started her career in Marketing and Advertising but after some years she realised that she was looking for a more interpersonal way of communication than the corporate world could offer. This sparked a radical change of direction, leading her to explore alternative ways of living. In this process, she discovered the power of non-formal education. With a background in theatre and writing, she has facilitated workshops on poetry, embodiment, and creative expression. Now a community member in Hopeland, her journey focuses on sustainable living and self-educating on how to support others in their learning processes. Driven by a fascination with group dynamics and human interaction, she intends to bring a grounded and empathetic presence, while offering a safe and reflective space.

The Hopeland crew

Hopeland is run by a small, international community of long-term residents who live and work together, known as the Hopeland crew. Each crew member brings their unique expertise, contributing to the daily life and sustainability of the place. The crew is also here to support and guide you, and beyond practical guidance, the Hopeland crew is dedicated to sharing their knowledge, answering your questions, and helping you settle into the rhythm of community life.



Ioannis Alexiou

He holds a double major in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Robotics Engineering, driven by an interest in how technology can mirror natural systems. Alongside his technical path, he has spent over 14 years studying, traveling, and living in various intentional and traditional communities. Since 2021, he has shifted his focus toward applying appropriate technology to support community self-sufficiency, sustainability, equality, and socioeconomic liberation. In December 2025, he joined Hopeland as Facilities Maintenance, beginning a new chapter aligned with this vision.



Maria Ntounta

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's in Creative Writing. Early in her studies she became interested in alternative education, especially free, anarchist, and democratic learning. Through self-education groups, EUDEC, Erasmus+ projects, and a 12-month ESC volunteering at the democratic school CoLibri in the Czech Republic, she deepened this path. She has also been active in the Scouting Movement and taught for two years in a kindergarten. In all her roles, she focuses on creating open and welcoming learning spaces where people can explore and learn individually and collectively. She is also a community member and lives there.

The Hopeland crew



Carla Bueno Jové

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She gained experience in group facilitation and non-formal education through scouting and organizing summer camps. After participating in an ESC project in Romania in 2019, she began working with European projects and spent four years managing ESC and Erasmus+ projects at La Vibria Intercultural. She later joined the Hopeland community as a project manager for ESC volunteering projects, while also taking responsibility for the Household and the Animals.



Eglantine Valois

She studied Veterinary Medicine in France but left her studies in search of a stronger sense of purpose. After volunteering in a wildlife hospital in Greece, she continued traveling and volunteering for two years in places such as an Italian eco-community and an organic farm in France. In April 2025 she joined Hopeland as a volunteer, what was meant to be her last stop before returning to France. Instead, she decided to stay and is now a community member responsible for the Kitchen, Social Media, and Goodies.



Remus Iosifescu

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Classical Languages and began a Master's in Comparative Indo-European Languages before shifting toward volunteering and Erasmus+ projects. During an ESC project in Hungary, he discovered gardening and permaculture, which led him into several years of working with nature and youth initiatives. In October 2025, he joined Hopeland as a gardener and community member, where he plans to stay and further specialize.

An Important Note

At Hopeland, we want to make sure the experience is a good fit for everyone.

The work here can be physically demanding. Tasks like gardening, eco-building, and other hands-on activities require a certain level of fitness so check if you are ready for it.

We also ask for personal responsibility, this means taking care of yourself, being mindful of your time, and doing your part as an active member of the team.

It's a chance for personal growth through physical work and shared experiences, so be prepared to engage fully.



We want everyone to have a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. Please think about these points when deciding if this is the right fit for you.

The Venue



- Hopeland is situated on a hill near the Malandreni village and located 130km (approximately 2h) south of Athens.
- The nearest town is Argos which is 12km away where you can find anything from small shops to supermarkets, banks, post offices, and bus stations. Closer to Hopeland and 4km away you can find small shops for shopping and coffee. Shops there are limited and unfortunately, it's not in walking distance so smart and sustainable planning of supplies is needed.

Hopeland center/estate, is located in a 7.7-acre piece of land, with old olive trees, almond and other trees, native herbs and it is surrounded by a forest and bushes, 5 oak trees protected by the local Forest Protection Service, out of which, one of them is estimated to be 400 years old and it came to be the landmark of Hopeland.



The Facilities

Facilities in Hopeland are basic, yet made with lots of love and effort by previous Hopelanders, giving the place its own special charm. You're encouraged to see it as your home, take care of it and add your own touch to help make it even better.

- Accommodation is happening in a big camping area that we call the Village and in the Guest House. In the Village, there are 4 big teepee tents with 4 beds in each, 2 outdoor toilets and 2 outdoor showers. Additionally, there are 2 compost toilets around the estate. The guest house is a two-storey building built with the strawbale eco- building technique. The ground floor serves as a common gathering area and upstairs there are 16 beds. It has 2 indoor toilets and an indoor shower. The volunteers decide where they want to stay once they arrive.
- The whole venture runs on solar panels, therefore, electricity is limited and on rainy days or days with strong consumption of electricity, we can run out of electric power.
- Due to that fact, there is no possibility of using devices that consume a lot of energy like hair dryers, hair straighteners etc and washing of clothes can only be done in the traditional way.
- Hopeland is a vegetarian, no-drugs venture. We believe that human beings can reach the utmost of their potential without the consumption of substances. Alcohol is prohibited during work hours, and we encourage minimal consumption overall.
- There is a separate kitchen building and a roofed dining area with all the necessary equipment. During the working week, we are cooking and eating our meals communally.
- There is wifi in the area but very limited because it is a 4G connection. Therefore, we recommend using your own 4G or mindfully using the wifi.



How to get to Hopeland



- *From Athens Airport take the train to Corinth. There will be a bus there at 17:00 PM Athens Local Time to pick you up.*

The trip from the Airport takes about 1.5 hours, so make sure to plan ahead when booking your tickets!

Travel Logistics (Budgets)

The travel budget is decided in accordance to the E+ Guidelines and up to the following maximum amounts per country:

**Reimbursements will be carried out by the Sending Organization of each country. Hopeland is only responsible for the reimbursements of Greek Participants.*

*** Keep in mind that we have already kept 30€ from your travel amount in order to pay for the bus to Korinthos - Hopeland - Korinthos. There is going to be a bus that will pick up the whole group from the Korinthos train station for arrival and for departure.*

- Greece: up to 150 euros
- Italy: up to 245 euros
- France: up to 245 euros
- Spain: up to 330 euros
- Belgium: 330 euros

Partners



ΕΛΠΙΔΟΧΩΡΙ
Hopeland

Hopeland
Greece



Back to the Roots
Spain



Catfarm Education
France



gaia
education

Gaia Education Europe
Belgium



NEW
WELLNESS
EDUCATION

New Wellness Education
Italy

If this project speaks to you and you're willing to join Hopeland and ECOSystems-Building Bridges, then you can start your application by...

*Clicking
Here:*

application
form