

Design for Sustainability

Final Report EDE Online Live Programme name



Gaia Education
Ecovillage
Design Education
Programme





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Course Overview

Course Overview (150-300 words): Brief explanation of the background of the organisation, host site. Diversity of participants and facilitators. Main highlights, key success factors and other relevant information that would describe what happened during the EDE. This text will appear at Gaia Education's web site to describe your programme.

The second **Ecovillage Design Education LIVE Online Programme** was an inspiring and transformative journey.

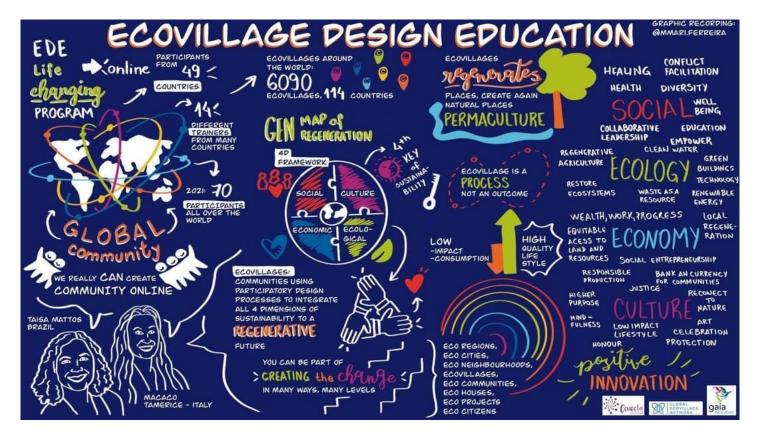
Coordinated and facilitated by two experienced EDE trainers: Taisa Mattos and Macaco Tamerice, with well-known guest trainers from the Ecovillage Movement, from 11 different countries, including some of the GEESE, such as: Kosha Joubert, May East, Albert Bates, Daniel Christian Wahl, John Croft, Daniel Greenberg, Jonathan Dawson, Ina Meyer-Stoll, Achim Ecker, Sarah Queblatin, Anna Kovasna, Andre Soares, Mugove Nyika and Carlos Rojas. As an online version, the EDE also needed a tech support team to help co- create the interactive sessions using diverse online tools.

The group was composed of 42 participants from 26 different countries, with very diverse backgrounds and extreme timezones. People joined from Hawaii to New Zealand, including many African countries and not so commonly represented countries such as Kyrgyzstan, from rural and urban settings and from all GEN regions.











This course was born out of a partnership between Taisa Mattos, representing Conecta Ecossocial and Macaco Tamerice, representing Damanhur Education and Arca Tentyris, and GEN International through the Online Learning Platform and the technical support.

Highlights:

- The amazing team of trainers from all corners of the world bringing an unique expertise
- The extreme diversity of backgrounds and countries was deeply enriching





- The ability of the team to create community, even onlineThe transformative power of the EDE that was life changing for many
- The discovery of life purpose was
- The outcomes of the design group projects and the willingness to continue
- The Cultural Moments with participants sharing their talents and expressions of their cultures

Key success factors:

- The quality of the facilitators and the guest facilitators and the synergy and friendship between them created a warm and inspiring learning atmosphere
- Using Discord as a communication platform to create synergy
- The engagement of the group



We are happy to share a few participant's quotes:





Taisa and Macaco are the best facilitators and the energy and enthusiasm they contribute is expansive! I love how they exemplify humble leadership, sharing and listening. Also their willingness to adapt and their consideration of feedback is so valuable and probably a big reason that this program is so successful. I feel the wisdom and wealth of their experience and knowledge really shines through them and they are a fabulous team together.

The lineup of Teachers and Facilitators is extraordinary in the EDE 2022 Online. That was the GEN All-Stars! So lucky to have been exposed to this!

The course is wonderful! It is so life affirming to meet every week with a group of people who are feeling the same feelings, talking about them openly, communicating and moving towards a positive new paradigm together. Even if it is not a "success" in the ego sense (in terms of the project or what we do after), it feels so good to be walking in a direction of positive change. Thank you so much for setting this up, to Taisa and Macaco for their wonderful facilitation and all the GEN team for support and facilitation.

While the online platform has it's obvious limitations, I think the fact that it is making this course more accessible to people is so valuable. I also very much appreciate being in the same "room" with people from all over the world. I for one would not (at this point in my life) be able to attend an in person EDE, much as I would like to. Being able to join in this way has been deeply gratifying, despite the technical interface. It didn't seem possible to create community and deep connection in this way but now I know it is! Thank you!





Participants (50-150 words):

(Basic stats including numbers of participants, age range, gender ratio, countries, ethnicities and backgrounds)

From 42 participants, the oldest one was 68 years old and the youngest one 21. In terms of gender balance there were 25 women and 17 men. Coming from 26 different countries: USA, Canada, Great Britain, India, Germany, Brazil, Austria, Turkey, Netherlands, South Africa, Malaysia, Australia, Hawaii, Venezuela, Switzerland, Namibia, New Zealand, France, Kenya, Malawi, China, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Luxemburg, Switzerland and Ghana.

They had the most diverse backgrounds: biologist, economist, farmer, yoga teacher, sociologist, film producer, permaculturists, university teachers, artists, architects, designers and so on.

Course rhythms (50-150 words):

A description of the times of daily activities, sessions, free time, social time, interaction with hosts, rest; how many hours in lectures & practical sessions, etc

The sessions were held every Saturday and also on a few Sundays. During the week the Design groups met for about 2 hours.

Usually we started with a warm welcome and the overview of the day and the participants were invited to check in on the chat. We could also hear a few voices while waiting for the entire group to join. We then introduced the guest trainer, if there were, or we continued with content.

Each session was unique, but frequently we had a structure including: a formal presentation with slides or videos, practical exercises in breakout groups, group reflections in the plenary and time for questions.

In order to bring a true EDE atmosphere and to open the space for the group contributions we also created a cultural moment where participants were invited to share their talents or something from their country/culture or something that they really liked.





So people were singing a song, playing instruments, showing pictures and videos, sharing about their work and so on. We also danced and sang together to celebrate our journey and connect in different ways.

Course Schedule:

ONLINE (LIVE) EDE Schedule					
from March, 12th to July, 24th 2022					
Facilitated by: Taisa Mattos & Macaco Tamerice					
SOCIAL DIMENSION			ECONOMIC DIMENSION		
From 12/03/2022 to 16/04/2022			From 21/05/2022 to 11/06/2022		
Sessions	Facilitator	Day	Sessions	Facilitator	Day
Ecovillage Introduction (Open session)	Taisa & Macaco	12.03	Shifting from Global Economy to Sustainability	Jonathan Dawson	21.05
Creating Community & Embracing Diversity	Taisa & Macaco	19.03	Exploring Community Economies	Anna Kovasna	28.05
Dragon Dreaming: co-creating collaborative projects	John Croft	26.03	Social currencies, community banks & exchange trade systems	Taisa & Macaco	4.06
Communication Skills & Conflict Management	Taisa & Macaco	2.04	Intrapreneurship & Edge Work	May East	11.06
Social & Personal Transformation	Ina Meyer-Stoll	9.04			
Leadership & Participatory Decision Making Processes	Taisa & Macaco	16.04	WORLDVIEW DIMENSION		
			From to 18/06/2022 to 16/07/2022		
ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION			Sessions	Facilitator	Day
From 23/04/2022 to 14/05/2022			Holistic Worldview & Reconnection with Nature	Macaco Tamerice	18.06
Sessions	Facilitator	Day	Transformation of Consciousness - Trauma Work	Kosha Joubert	25.06
Permaculture Design	André Soares	23.04	Designing Regenerative Cultures	Daniel Wahl	2.07
Renewable Energy; Water Management, Waste Management	Achim Ecker	24.04	Evolutionary approaches to Education Daniel Green		8 9.07
Green Building	Carlos Rojas	30.04	Evolutionary approaches to Education	Mugove Nyika	3.07
Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security	Albert Bates	7.05	Ecovillages and the Sustainable Development Goals	Taisa Mattos	16.07
Ecovillage Solutions to Climate Emergencies	Sarah Queblatin	14.05			
Design Working Groups & Additional Hours					
From 26/03/2021to 24/07/2	022				
Sessions		Day			
Design Group Work: ~ 2 hours per week to be decided by the working groups					
* Design Sessions (in Yellow, integrated to Social and Ecology)					
Design Group Presentations + Closing Session		23.07 and 24.07			





Highlights & challenges of each dimension

Social Dimension (150-250 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What subjects were covered? 1-2 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Include 2-3 pictures.

Social Dimension

During the Social Dimension we learned about Ecovillages, community building and how to embrace different perspectives in order to co-create thriving communities and groups and to develop successful projects. We have explored together key social topics, such as: shared leadership, participatory decision making processes, communication skills, facilitation skills, and the importance of having clear group agreements and procedures (especially around conflict management and how to take decisions together).

Topics and trainers:

Ecovillages: Catalysing the power of communities for a regenerative world - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos

Creating Community & Embracing Diversity - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos

Dragon Dreaming: co-creating collaborative projects - John Croft (was included in the social dimension to support the Design Groups but in fact it is a design session)

Communication Skills & Conflict Management - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos

Social and personal transformation - Ina Meyer-Stoll

Leadership & Decision-Making - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos

Highlights: Taisa and Macaco as main facilitators. The group diversity, including participants from all continents. The alignment between the trainers, being able to go deep without in person contact; interactive online sessions.

Participant Quotes:





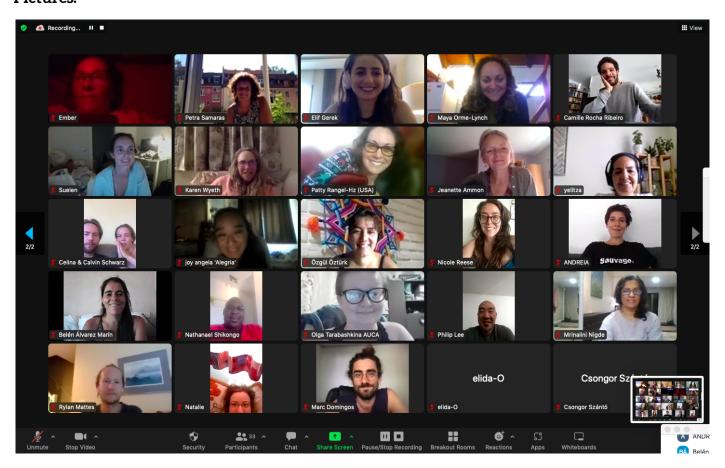
From my perspective, what I retain from the social dimension, is a deeper understanding of how this one is tied, and interconnected with the other dimensions. Not randomly the first of the four dimensions, when activated, becomes the vessel that allows us to connect and nurture each other, individually and collectively as a whole social organism, and also to develop culture. Depending on how deeply we exercise the alignment of ourselves and the world, the more balanced the other following dimensions tend to be.

I really love the facilitators, meetings and exchanging with people all around the world

This course gives me determination, hope and motivates me! Thank you

I am in the right place with the right people, planning amazing projects, trusting the process!! Aho

How important embracing diversity and community is and how that goes along. Social Dimension was the perfect dimension to start with for the EDE Course, as I learned much about myself and about interacting with the group members.





Ecological Dimension (150-250 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed? 2-3 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Any other information that you consider relevant. Include 2-3 pictures.

During the Ecological dimension, we welcomed 5 guest trainers bringing a lot of expertise and examples in the key areas such as: renewable energy, food security, natural building, permaculture design and climate adaptation. The group was very interested in all the sessions and the awareness about the necessity to change our lifestyle and intervene in environmental issues stood out.

All the trainers are experienced permaculturists coming from different countries and backgrounds. As the participants also came from all over it was easy for them to connect to the topics, with regional examples.

Topics and trainers:

Permaculture Design - André Soares

Green Building - Carlos Rojas

Renewable Energy; Water management, Waste Management - Achim Ecker

Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security - Albert Bates

Climate Change & How Ecovillages are facing EmerGENcies - Sarah Queblatin

Highlights:

The competency, knowledge and diversity of the guest-facilitators creating a beautiful mosaic of experiences. It was crucial to include a session about climate adaptation and emergencies in a period of such turbulence. One of the design groups decided to work specifically with Permaculture.

Participant Quotes:

Such a high quality of experience being shared by those connected to ecovillages (local) and also working globally, that I relished the sharing of their experiences and always enjoy seeing how people present their ideas. I was bowled over by all the presentations.





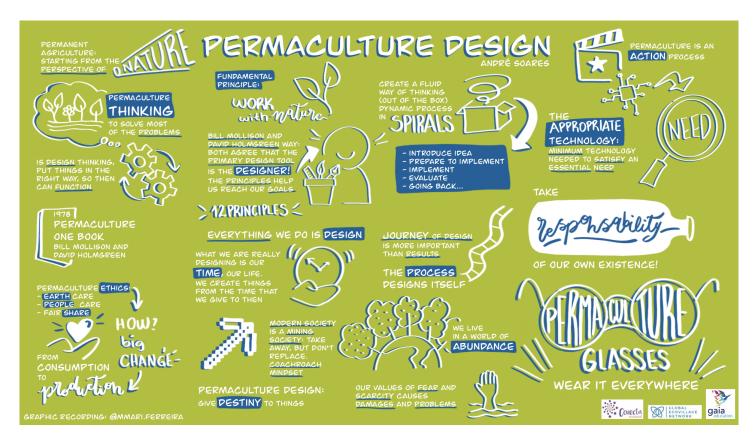
We are in the middle of climate crisis and we need to build resilience through collaborative efforts. We are the bridge buildres from old paradigm to new paradim who will create new systems based on regeneration. Restore to restory:)

If I could I would have given 11 or 12 points for Carlos Rojas and Albert Bates. MIND BLOWN









Economic Dimension (150-250 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed? 2-3 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Any other information that you consider relevant.

This dimension was an eye-opener for many which left the participants with many reflections in regard to reality and that we really need to redesign our economic system. Money is a very hot topic. It was interesting to explore how communities are already doing it and how they are on the forefront and a laboratory for the future. Looking at the unsustainability of the current system and hearing inspiring examples on how to do it differently opened spirals of light and hope.

Topics and trainers:

Shifting from Global Economy to Sustainability - Jonathan Dawson



Exploring Community Economies - Anna Kovasna

Social Currencies, community banks and exchange trade systems - Macaco Tamerice and Taisa Mattos

Intrapreneurship and Edge Work - May East

Highlights:

A new awareness on economy and money. Moving from scarcity to abundance by changing our perspectives. Reflection on our power as consumers in a consumerist society. The research on economic models in ecovillages including income sharing and complementary currencies.

Participant Quotes:

I would give every single person 11 if there was another number. Hahaha. I keep thinking Jonathan was my favourite, no Anna was my favourite, no May was my favourite, no Macaco and Taisa have inspired me most and then I realise that it's all equal and that this section of the course has been deeply moving, extremely important for me and has helped to guide my path and direction more. Thank you so much. I will watch all the sessions again many many times I think

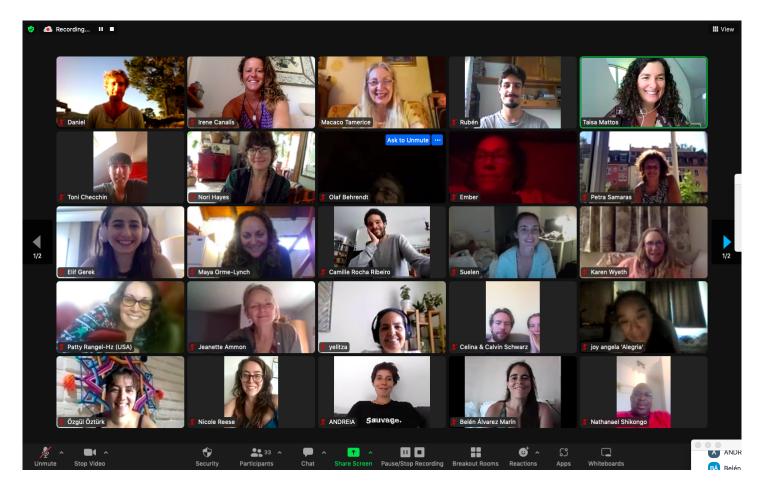
I am always surprised at how interesting this topic can be, especially when approached with the lens of alternatives. For me it is always helpful to reinforce this idea that the standard economic model defines how we act and how are systems are set up an ways that we don't always think of or recognize. To change our economic models and systems has far reaching potential ti shift how we operate in the world and how we can bring about a paradigm shift.

Ecovillages are at the forefront of the new economy, giving hope for a more just world.

How economy is so related to everything. How we relate, sexuality, our values. So important to consider it deeply in any group project. It is not just about money and money is not evil, it is our relationship to money (and all things) that has caused so much chaos.







Worldview Dimension (150-250 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed? 2-3 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Any other information that you consider relevant.

For the Worldview dimension we welcomed the most amazing team. It was deeply touching but also practical. We had practical exercises to reconnect to nature which allowed for some mystical experiences for many. We also looked into trauma ands its implications in people's lives as well as on a collective level. We witnessed real experiences about integral approaches to education and reflected on how to align your work and project to the SDGs. We also understand what it means to design regenerative cultures.





Topics and Trainers:

Holistic Worldview & Reconnection with Nature - Macaco Tamerice

Transformation of Consciousness and Trauma Work - Kosha Joubert

Designing Regenerative Cultures - Daniel Christian Wahl

Evolutionary Approaches to Education - Daniel Greenberg and Mugove Nyika

Ecovillages and the Sustainable Development Goals - Taisa Mattos

Highlights:

Talking about trauma was a very actual theme and it opened the space for deep sharing. Another highlight was the session about reconnecting to nature which allowed the participants to deeply get in touch with themselves and experience nature through their senses. The session on the SDGs showed how they are being implemented naturally on a community level and helped the students understand what to do to contribute. The power of education and how key it is to the ecovillage movement allowed new insights.

Participant Quotes:

Yes if the lineup of Teachers and Facilitators is as extraordinary as EDE 2022 Online. That was the GEN All-Stars! So lucky to have been exposed to this!

World view dimension broaden my perspective and there is more clarity my existence on this earth. I learnt about the three level of work which is the inner development, outer development and the system as whole. I learnt about the disaster management, building resilience and need to renature. Under the evolutionary approaches to education it was enlightening to know the different perspectives of holistic education. I learnt about the 17 sustainable development goals set by the United nations to bring change to climate crisis.

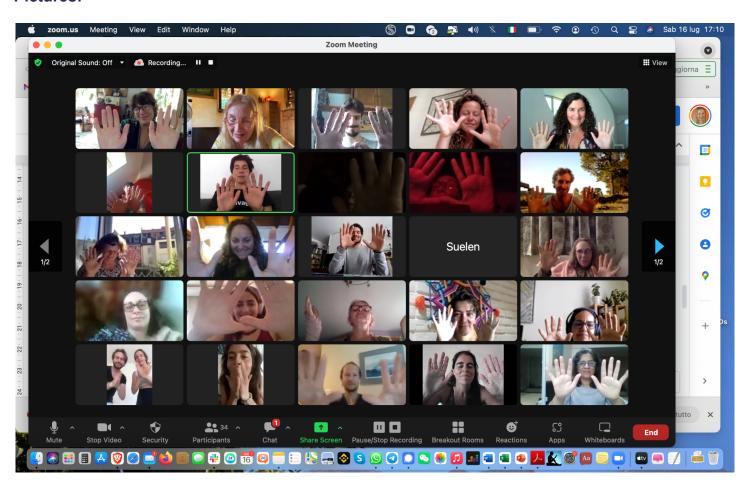
The world is full of cultures that are like glasses, we see it always from a certain perspective. to think globally, we need to shift perspectives and be open and able to understand different views with different mindsets





As always the material was well presented and the speakers are so inspiring.

Favorite Dimension...Ideal Structure of Course! LOVE Angelic Choir Singing Praises of this EDE Especially Macaco and Taisa. I Celebrate You!





Design Dimension (150-200 words)

What happened in this dimension? What were the highlights? What topics were covered? What practical activities were performed? 2-3 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources. A sentence on each core faculty/facilitator. Any other information that you consider relevant.

We had two really important design approaches: Dragon Dreaming and Permaculture Design. Harvesting from our experience from last year it was much easier than the first time to create the design groups and get them running despite so many people from such different backgrounds and time zones, personalities, experiences online.

Some groups took longer than others to tune in and decide about their projects but with small interventions from the facilitators attending to their meetings, the groups aligned and co-created amazing outcomes.

Highlights:

To have John Croft in person to teach about Dragon Dreaming and starting the process of creating the Design groups.

The learning around co-creating a project together with such a diverse group coming from all over.

The Design group presentations and high quality projects, of which some were engaged to continue beyond the end of the course.

Participant Quotes:

That we do not live or work in isolation. We must collaborate to create the world we want to live in.

The design group work was really meaningful in order to experience how to co-create a common project going through a process of personal and group challenges in order to reach a common goal.











Course challenges

In terms of overall course challenges we can mention the time zone differences and the adaptation to the virtual environment.

Poor internet connection made participation difficult for a few people.

Extreme timezones makes it harder for some people to engage

Two participants had different expectations of the programme, wanting to dive deeper in one of the topics instead of learning the wider mosaic. It made us adapt our promotional materials in order to be even more clear about what to expect from the course.

Design Studio Case Studies

Brief description of the case studies developed during the programme if applicable.

• RISE - Regeneration Incubation Sinergies for Education

The RISE project is about bringing nature back to the urban places, by ecobuilding a physical place that will serve as paradigm shift incubator. This place Is ment to train the community for transitioning into a sustainable and high quality lifestyle, and work as hub to interact with local schools, offering a complement to the conventional educational programs.

Through the 4D model it revealed to be large scale exercise of cooperation and social experiment that calls adults to co create this educational and leisure center, gifting children with a game changer, that will allow them to upscale their positive impact on the world. It's a prototype dynamics to be replicated in urban places world wide, establishing a network of transitioning cities, from the very root of social prosperity: an education with a sense of community and nature awareness.

It also shows up as a training program, as the process will cherish the involved with a range of high quality training on the sustainability scope.

This project has an extension ready to implement in Paris, for which research is taking place, and also it is intended to be film documented.





• DREAM CIRCLE ECOVILLAGE Design Project

We have felt the need to come together to make our dreams come true, because we found need covered in the places where we live, and we wanna give a better place more connected to earth and natural living to our families and possible neighbourhoods and be ready for possible crises in the future. We are concerned about climate change, and need to learn new strategies to live in a moreawareway, in loving harmony with our environment.

All this impulses us to co-create and preserve much peaceful, an inclusive(allages, nationalities, especial needs) environmentally friendly, healthy, collaborative, regenerative and sustainable living sharing open space in nature for X families, and dive(to begin with) into understanding The Social Process of creating and developing this Ecovillage called: "DREAM CIRCLE"

Omuthiya Natural Springs Ecovillage

Our design project was focussed on an existing, new ecovillage project in Namibia. As we are the Permaculture Design Group, we spent much time designing the physical aspects of the village including a community garden, ponds. water catchment, an organic farm, and natural buildings. Some of the economic projects will be a green hydrogen electricity plant, crafts workshop, accommodation, a cafe and visitor's centre. At some point there will be a school and housing for orphans who were displaced by deforestation. There was crowdfunding through the Global Tree Initiative to buy 300 trees to reforest the property and this will go a long way towards restoring the land.

• The Ecovillage El Amparo is located in the Andes of Venezuela, is in a land of 14 hectares, 40 km from the Merida city on the pan american road at 1600 m altitude. The área is surrounded by montane andean forest. The farm area has been traditionally used for cattle farming. We already have some infrastructure such as a restaurant house, water reservoirs and three small houses.

We plan an ecovillage for a community of 8 to 10 dwellers (families) who are willing to regenerate, respect and love the land and care for the water, surroundings, forests and neighbours to celebrate our culture, spirituality and ecological practices.

Our Project deals with the development of permacultural activities for the community, governance and integration, in a country with a complex social and economical context where





an ecovillage would contribute to man and nature equilibrium and wellbeing.

- CO·RE was born during the online EDE 2022 as a game "guiding you to envision and design
 alternative economic pathways toward the fulfilment of your community" by initiating dialogues
 for personal and collective reflections in order to create ecovillage economies transforming
 convergent 'crisis' that can not be solved with the mindset which created it.
- Re-Story Now is an interactive space of co-creation, learning and connection.
 We aim to empower people with a toolkit that helps members of the platform to access the incredible diversity of resources that we have at our fingertips, informing and connecting us to regenerative practices, communities and global solutions.

This platform offers us to re-story our lives. Organising the resources, tools and connection to make finding your way to the information, connection and support, easily accessible to anyone at any level. The platform is based on making an interactive narrative that engages and celebrates life. Re-Story Now is designed to offer people an experience, a gift. A chance to find the truth of their personal story unfolding.

Re-story now has the dream of this beautiful world at its core. We create and offer through the energy of reciprocity and encourage all who engage with the platform to do the same. Membership into the platform (which is free) will start the access to everything held within however, it's a journey of engagement. To unlock parts of this great web of interconnectivity, you earn tokens. You can earn tokens through engagement (in various forms) with the platform and with your re-story.

Lessons Learned (50-300 words)

What could help future EDE's from your experience? What were your biggest learnings? If a recertified EDE, also list & respond to lessons learnt from your previous EDE. Describe your EDE in terms of the know-how and learning obtained, the stories and inspiration that happen to the participants and the organisers during the EDE or a good summary of a project or activity carried out during the program. Take into consideration that this will be circulated among the Gaia Education community, so they wish to learn, get inspired and be empowered by your program and your participant's experiences. (200 – 400 words). Include 1 or 2 pictures.



- We confirmed with the second successful online course that it is possible to create a real global community and deep connection between the people despite the virtual environment and diverse backgrounds and living situations.
- A scholarship fund was created to support the participation of people with limited financial resources.
- An experienced team is necessary in order to hold the field and keep the engagement over 4
 months during an online course; After the first edition, we became more efficient more used
 and adapted to online facilitation.
- A diversity of trainers was crucial to add different perspectives and global examples;
- We learned that having a communication platform like Discord helped create community and allowed fruitful discussions.
- The group had different abilities in regard to online tools and technology that need to be considered. Harvesting also from our experience from the first cohort we decided to simplify.
- There is a huge difference in terms of rhythm and timing in face-to-face and online teaching. As we get more experienced we realise that less is more. Better to bring what is essential and open space for participation.
- The online programme allowed people who would not have been able to join an EDE in person to participate because of many different reasons: low economy, because there are no EDE's in their countries, impossibility to travel etc.
- Running the course during the weekends allowed more people to participate.
- We learned we need to be very precise with the course promotion in terms of what we are offering, time commitment, etc.

Re-designs:

We changed educators in Economy to bring a different perspective but we are still considering redesigning another session in economy.

Adding a specific session on Green Building was the right decision.

Course Outcomes:



The Online EDE was again a great success and truly inspiring and experiential learning journey. It showed clearly that it is possible to create a deeply sharing community also online. It is an unique opportunity to connect and exchange with people from all over the world, including a brilliant team of trainers.

Some of the above projects will continue after the course and be implemented.

Concise financial information showing income/expenditure.

The total course income was £29,940 A great addition was to have a fundraising scholarship campaign, besides personal contacts giving more people the opportunity to support. In total, we got £2,271.94 in Scholarships.

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Budget Report	GBP
Gaia Education RECertification	100
Course Coordination and Facilitation	9.000
Trainers	5.000
	2000
Tech Support /Assistant	
GEN Partnership (Online Platform, IT, Promotional materials and ADM)	13.000
Zoom Account	80
Taxes & Fees	760
	£29,940



Participant Quotes

Send 3-4 participant quotes from the Gaia Education Evaluations or other sources, please include names and photos (send the photos as separate .jpeg files and properly captioned/named) – please make sure that the people in the photos have given their permission to be included.

Overall quotes:

Taisa and Macaco are the best facilitators and the energy and enthusiasm they contribute is expansive! I love how they exemplify humble leadership, sharing and listening. Also their willingness to adapt and their consideration of feedback is so valuable and probably a big reason that this program is so successful. I feel the wisdom and wealth of their experience and knowledge really shines through them and they are a fabulous team together.

So I found this session inspiring and I also grow in my takes of the overall EDE course so I feel more implicated in the session and the group design because I am starting to get a better understanding of what is an ecovillage and what is important in the design. Also what and how would I be able to apply it in my own life and share it with the maximum amount of people. Thanks again for your work!

Group exercises and cultural moments are Awesome and really make this course fun and engaging, facilitating our connection, relationships and cohesion.

Without the online environment it would not have been possible to have the teachings from all of these incredible people on one course. But to be present and be able to share, hug, chat, laugh anc connect more in person is lacking. HOWEVER, I don't think I would have been able to attend an EDE in person so it's actually the best thing ever that I was able to partake in this, Along with my PDC this is the best course I have ever taken. Paradigm changing, gently radical, full of heart and wonder. Thank you, thank you, thank you

You're doing a great job and I feel deeply inspired due to it - thank you so much for that!

All together we are empowered from the expertise and teachings from the heart of compassion and the will to better the world. Thank you