

GREEN GENERATION EYES WIDE OPEN

ESC volunteering teams in high priority areas



18 August - 16 September 2024



Hopeland eco-community in Argolida, Greece



ΕΛΠΙΔΟΧΩΡΙ
Hopeland



Co-funded by
the European Union





BE A HOPELANDER



Live for 1 month in Hopeland, a 7-acre educational eco-community in southern Greece focusing on **sustainability** and within a group of total 15 volunteers from around Europe, become a **vibrant part** of Hopeland's team.

Use your **hands**, your **mind**, your **creativity** and any other skills you might have into the **enhancement of the place**, creation of the **nurturing community** and into **outreaching locals** around Hopeland and beyond.



ABOUT HOPELAND

Hopeland educational **eco-community** is located in a rural remote area in the south part of Greece. The venture is built with lots of **love** and (mainly) with **natural materials** from volunteers, visitors and guests who have visited and stayed with us throughout the last 12 years.

Our **mission** is to provide a space where people **explore, create** and **learn** from each other and **nature**. A space in which our actions and interactions are based on our core values of **sustainability, mindfulness, synergy**, and of course.. **hope!**

Hopeland is offering various **experiential learning experiences** through the **Erasmus+** and **ESC** programs, mainly on the topics of personal growth, community and environment.

We are welcoming **young people, educators** and **local farmers** to join forces with us and together contribute towards our wider **vision** of a society with **deep community spirit** and **involvement** in personal, social and environmental growth.





ABOUT THE PROJECT

Eyes Wide Open is a 3-year Volunteering Teams project aimed at creating counter-narratives to promote **healthy lifestyles** and cultural heritage preservation in 3 different countries (Italy, Greece, Bulgaria). This Volunteering team is part of the second year of the project **GREEN GENERATION** focused on promoting and supporting community action on climate and environmental sustainability, especially focused on vulnerable groups. More about it at www.eyes-wide-open.info





THE PILLARS OF THE PROJECT



- 01 Maintain & Upgrade
- 02 Outreach the local society
- 03 Leave your own mark and beyond



PILLAR 1: MAINTAIN & UPGRADE



One of the main pillars is the **hands-on activities** focusing on the improvement of the place. It can be eco-building, gardening, digging, making wooden constructions, maintaining the existing structures and in general **improving the infrastructure**, the facilities and the sustainability factors of the place. Besides those, the community will be sharing also practical living tasks like cooking, cleaning, shopping, managing the social media, watering the gardens, feeding animals etc

The tasks vary with the season, and are chosen according to the current needs and the **long-term plan of Hopeland**.

We also plan to welcome our friends from **Liveloula**, a nearby eco-community, to join us for few days and **share their expertise** with gardening and the **permaculture approach**.



PILLAR 2: OUTREACH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

One of the parts of the project is **to reach out and connect with the local community and the local initiatives of the surrounding area.**

We aim to build **strong partnerships** and plan common activities in general and during this project.

We will plan these activities based on the **current needs**, it could be cleaning of the area, supporting local farmers, visiting local businesses or other eco-communities etc.

We aim to create **win-win situations** where we contribute to the place we go and on the same time having new learnings on an individual and group level.





PILLAR 3: LEAVE YOUR OWN MARK AND BEYOND



During your stay you will have the chance to work on a specific project in a smaller group or alone. **Imagine** choosing something aligned with Hopeland's priorities while **focusing on a particular element** like building, gardening, art, or designing. This is your chance to explore in a deeper level a theme that truly **captivates** and ignites a learning spark in you!

One of Hopeland's coordinator will be there every step of the way **supporting** you to shape the project into a concrete plan.

That's a great opportunity to **let your passion shine** while contributing into Hopeland's vision!



CREATING A NURTURING COMMUNITY

By joining this team, you are joining a vibrant **eco-community** that consists of the permanent residents and long-term volunteers of Hopeland. Aiming to cultivate a **nurturing and safe space** for all, we base our approach on the values of **accountability, sustainability, and synergy**.

Over the years, we have created **rituals** and structures that we invite people to follow and reinforce with **new and fresh ideas**. These are designed to bring us closer together, **ensuring smooth operations** and a focus on the new learnings that arises. Some of those rituals and structures are the morning check-in meetings, Monday practicals meetings, Friday reflection sessions and sharing circles, co-creation of workshops bases on embodiment, outdoor and nature-based education, **community building** etc.





FOR WHOM?

We are offering this opportunity to **15 participants** to ensure the intercultural dimension of the project. There are several requirements from the programme itself and a profile that we would like to focus on.



- 18–30 years old (not older than 31 on the first day of the project)
- Legal residents of one of the Erasmus+ programme countries with no visa needed to enter Greece
- Ready to live in a rural environment with basic conditions
- Eager to be challenged into aligning together with people from different cultures and making together a nurturing and well-functioning community
- Enthusiastic with hands-on activities and practical tasks like gardening, building, cooking, cleaning etc
- Eager to take initiatives and create opportunities for themselves and society
- People with a clear plan and vision regarding their participation in the project and beyond
- Priority will be given to those that are facing or faced any kind of troubles in life
- We are also looking for a couple of volunteers with media skills such as photography and filmmaking for documenting this whole experience for everyone but also support Hopeland activities, digital marketing and promotions.

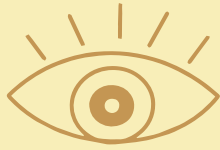


THE LOCATION

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 boasts, 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**.



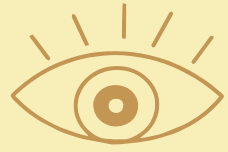


THE FACILITIES

Facilities in Hopeland are basic but made with lots of love and work from previous Hopelanders



- Accommodation is happening in a big camping area that we call the **Village**, equipped with **6 big teepee tents** with **3 beds** and 3 furniture for personal items in each tent. The Village is the **volunteers' area**. It has 2 outdoor toilets and 2 outdoor showers. Additionally, there is **1 compost toilet** around the estate.
- There is the **guest house**, 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 for guests. It has 2 indoor toilets, an indoor shower and two more outdoor showers right outside of it.
- The whole venture **runs in 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.
- There is a **separate kitchen building** and a roofed dining area with all the necessary equipment for cooking and dining.
- There is **wifi** in specific area For this, we recommend using your own 4G or mindfully use the wifi.



GET A GLIMPSE IN PREVIOUS VOLUNTEERING TEAMS

Greenovation Volunteering Teams 2021



Greenovation Volunteering Teams 2023





THE TIMELINE

Arrival

18 August 2024



Program starts

19 August 2024



Program ends

15 September 2024



Departure

16 September 2024



You have 7 extra days in total that you can use before or after the project to travel around Greece. If you wish to do so, bare in mind that you need to cover the costs for your accommodation & food. Late arrivals or early departures are not allowed.



PRACTICALS

Pocket money

- You will receive 5€/day for your living money

Food money

- You will receive a weekly budget for all the group in order to cook altogether

Reimbursement

- Your travel costs will be reimbursed according to the distance between your home and Hopeland.

Insurance

- Besides the European Health insurance card you are going to be offered a private insurance too

Youthpass

- You are entitled to receive a YouthPass certificate where you are expected to self-assess your own learning





INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION



At Hopeland, **sustainability is more than a goal**. It's a holistic **commitment** to protect our environment, nurture our economy, and embrace the people around us. We strive for **greener solutions** in our lives and communities, cultivating a balanced and harmonious connection with one another.

While Hopeland has taken **significant steps**, existing off the grid, opting for eco-building, embracing a vegetarian lifestyle and more. Yet, we fully acknowledge that we're not yet 100% sustainable. Our vision is to make each day a **purposeful** step in this direction, fostering a transformative mindset through experiential learning.

We invite you to **come along in this journey** and contribute to our collective action plan. We are also aware that flying people from around Europe to work on sustainability is unsustainable so we invite you to be conscious on your own travelling options and be ready to contribute with ideas and actions on how we can balance it during the programme.

We are looking forward to creating this **greener world together**.



ARE YOU THE NEXT HOPELANDER?

If what you've read so far resonates with you and you are ready to join Hopeland eco-community, then...

[Apply here](#)





PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



Hopeland
Greece
hello@hopeland.gr



Synergy Bulgaria
Bulgaria
info@synergybulgaria.com



New Wellness Education
Italy
newwellnesseducation@gmail.com



Associazione Link APS
Italy
link@linkyouth.org





REACH OUT TO US



For more information check the project's website www.eyes-wide-open.info



Co-funded by
the European Union

The programme is co-funded by the European Education & Culture Executive Agency