

New Era.

ESC volunteering teams in high priority areas



29 October - 29 November 2024



Hopeland eco-community in Argolida, Greece



Join the New Era



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



The New E.R.A is a 3-year project based on the concept of creating a **healthy environment** that fosters a healthy lifestyle and positive **wellbeing** for local communities, surrounding networks and future (local and international) generations. It focuses on three objectives, the mental, community-centered and physical wellbeing.

This year, the two Volunteering Teams will take place in Hopeland, Greece and Olde Vechte Foundation, the Netherlands where volunteers will explore **new methods** to enhance the physical wellbeing through **hands-on and outdoor activities**, community building & sustainability while creating a **positive, long-term (tangible) impact** for the locals and building a more inclusive society.

The project pillars

ENGAGE

ROOT

ACT



ENGAGE



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.

ROOT

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!





On 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**.

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



What our volunteers said

Get inspired by the learnings of the volunteers that joined us in the first volunteering team of New E.R.A. from a previous year. Here are some of their sayings:

"It was one of the best months of my life and I can't stop thinking about going back. I created super meaningful relationships with lots of people in such little time, learned more about sustainability, and was always very happy there."



"I have an enormous feeling of success knowing that I have learned how to live a less wasteful and a more self-reliant life, and I am glad I am able to share it with my community."

Timeframe

Arrival

29 October 2024



Program starts

30 October 2024



Program ends

28 November 2024



Departure

29 November 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

During the last couple of years, the impact of COVID-19 on people, communities, organizations, as well as the environment has been immense. This means that we look for creating a balanced and harmonious connection with each other and within ourselves, body and mind.

Our vision is to promote and support the creation of a healthy lifestyle through the connection with the natural environment and to build inclusive relationships with the local communities via activities such as workshops, community work and events. We are aiming at a sustainable approach –from a holistic perspective– in order to grow ourselves and the community by returning to our roots. We are inviting you to contribute with ideas and actions and to share your experiences.

We are looking forward to improve our local community and its wellbeing together!



Are you joining the New Era?

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



Partner organisations



Hopeland
Greece
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Synergy Bulgaria
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Associacio Globers
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Stay in touch

...and let's build together a **New Era**.



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