



ΜΟΝΟΠΑΤΙΑ ΑΛΛΗΛΕΓΓΥΗΣ

Solidarity Tracks

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Building together our Euro-Med eco-home



Euro-Med training course
For young people and
youth workers

MAGAZINE



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Introduction

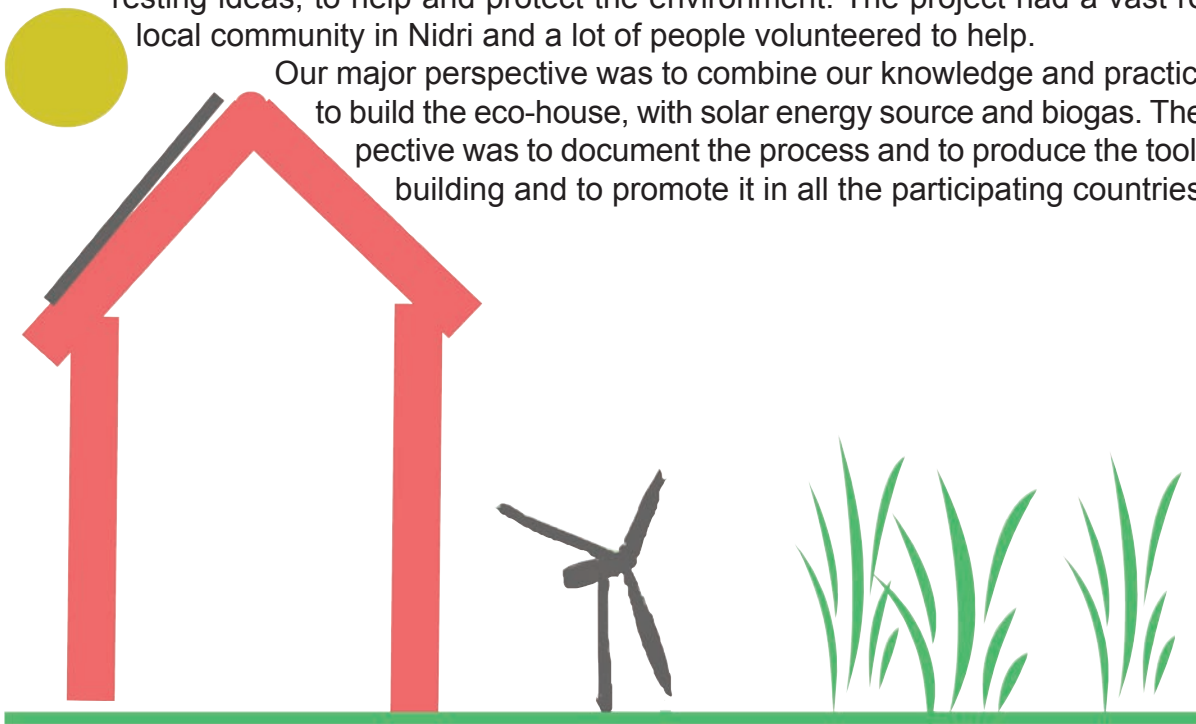
It is obvious, that irresponsible actions of people have led our planet to an ecological catastrophe. Every day in European and Mediterranean countries every person produces from 1.5 kg to 3 kg of waste. The Earth is turning into a huge garbage plant. But it is possible to recycle a significant part of waste, we throw away. For example, the food and other organic waste one can convert into biogas and the fertilizer for agriculture.

Another example – a Greek person buys the paint for the house, which has been made in England. The paint has traveled around 2200 kilometers. The track in every 1000 km has produced 35 grams of carbon dioxide, which totals in 77 grams of carbon dioxide for painting the house. Therefore it's better to buy a local building material and not pollute the environment.

Still fresh in the memory we have the catastrophe in Japan in Fukushima atomic electric plant at 2011. People where exposed to radiation and huge territories of land and sea were made unsuitable for living at least for 25 years. This disaster could have been prevented, if Japan would have chosen to use more nature friendly energy sources, like solar or wind energy.

Therefore, 41 youth leaders and participants from European and Mediterranean countries from different culture and experience have gathered together for 10 unforgettable days in Greece, to work in a team, to exchange knowledge and good practices of eco-building, to discover many new interesting ideas, to help and protect the environment. The project had a vast resonance in local community in Nidri and a lot of people volunteered to help.

Our major perspective was to combine our knowledge and practical skills and to build the eco-house, with solar energy source and biogas. The other perspective was to document the process and to produce the tool for the eco-building and to promote it in all the participating countries.



Building the house, the PROCESS

We were divided into 3 groups – one for eco-building gently guided by an experienced trainer in Greek traditional building and materials – environmental artist and educator Stamatina Palmou.

The other one - for solar energy and biogas was supervised by Nabil El Arbi and Mohamed Ali Abes.

The first group started mixing sand, clay and straw in water, in order to create the building material named cob. The mixing was done the traditional way – by the feet and hands of the participants. The building material was placed on the base and piece by piece it started to form the wall..

The second group planned, constructed and installed the biogas system. They also planned constructed and installed the electrical wiring and the solar panel. All the calculation was done by the trainers before the training course, but still there where a lot of physical and technological challenges for both groups.

The third group followed and documented the building activities, created a Prezi presentation and this magazine so that the project can be shared throughout Europe



Not only building work

Apart of the building process, during the Training course, the participants did reflection activities. In groups, we were thinking and sharing opinions and methods about the need for eco-building in a Euro-Med context, opportunities and grants of building ecologically in the countries of all the participants and future valorization of the eco-house. Also, the organizations shared their previous experience in eco-building and showing examples of different techniques. As well, the training course was a good opportunity to create links between organizations for futures eco-projects together. Every night, we were having daily evaluation. All together were sharing our feelings about



the day, how we work, how satisfied we were with the training and what we should change for next days.

Another important part of the training course was the socializing. We were having free time when all spent time together in a informal way. Going to the beach, playing in the swimming pool, talking in the eating time,,,

As well, in this sense, we organized the intercultural evening in the first day. Every country presented their culture with national costumes and music presentations. The last night, we had a farewell party. We enjoyed with traditional Greek dances performed by the Orfeas dance group.

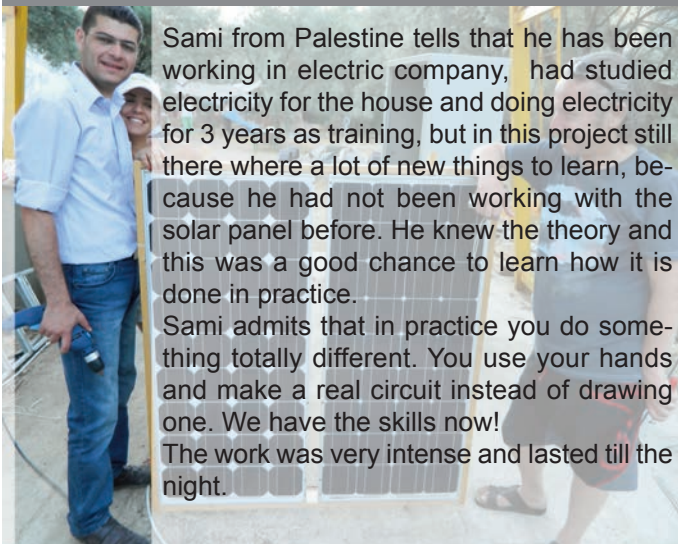


Volunteers Participation

The local and EVS volunteers from Solidarity Tracks played a prominent role during this training. They were helping in the organization of the training. Also they participated in many activities during that week joining the group. They were working in the energies system and building the house. But, as well, they did an important and useful task. They were the cooking team and they were preparing every meal for the participants. No doubt, they did a great job.



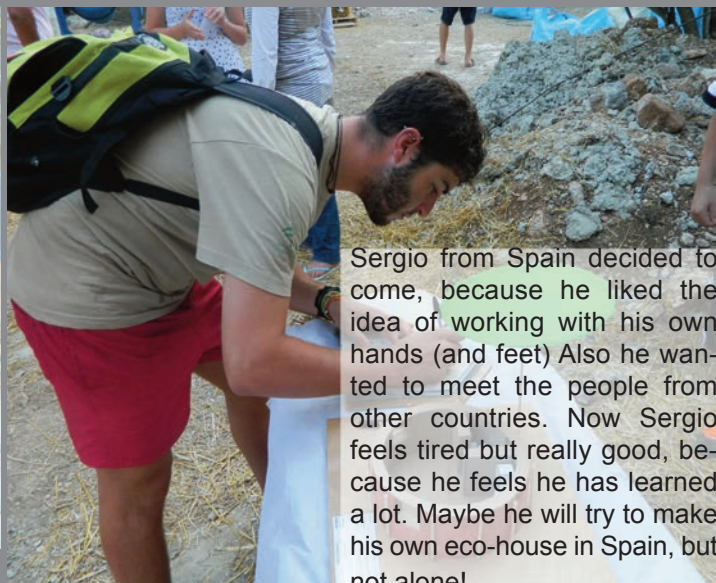
The feedback of the Participants



Sami from Palestine tells that he has been working in electric company, had studied electricity for the house and doing electricity for 3 years as training, but in this project still there where a lot of new things to learn, because he had not been working with the solar panel before. He knew the theory and this was a good chance to learn how it is done in practice.

Sami admits that in practice you do something totally different. You use your hands and make a real circuit instead of drawing one. We have the skills now!

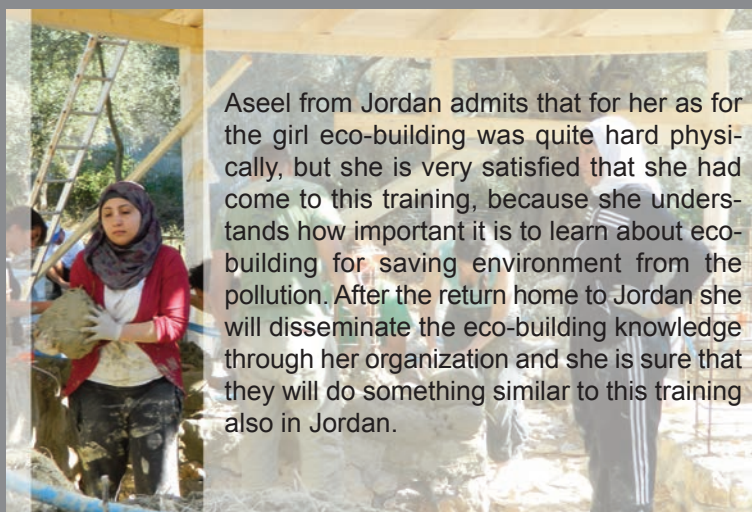
The work was very intense and lasted till the night.



Sergio from Spain decided to come, because he liked the idea of working with his own hands (and feet) Also he wanted to meet the people from other countries. Now Sergio feels tired but really good, because he feels he has learned a lot. Maybe he will try to make his own eco-house in Spain, but not alone!



Sami from Turkey joined the project because he wanted to learn more about eco-building, to meet nice people and to establish contacts with similar organizations for the future cooperation. The project had met his expectations completely. He is surprised about how many smart and young people interested in eco-building he had met, he was not expecting so many!



Aseel from Jordan admits that for her as for the girl eco-building was quite hard physically, but she is very satisfied that she had come to this training, because she understands how important it is to learn about eco-building for saving environment from the pollution. After the return home to Jordan she will disseminate the eco-building knowledge through her organization and she is sure that they will do something similar to this training also in Jordan.

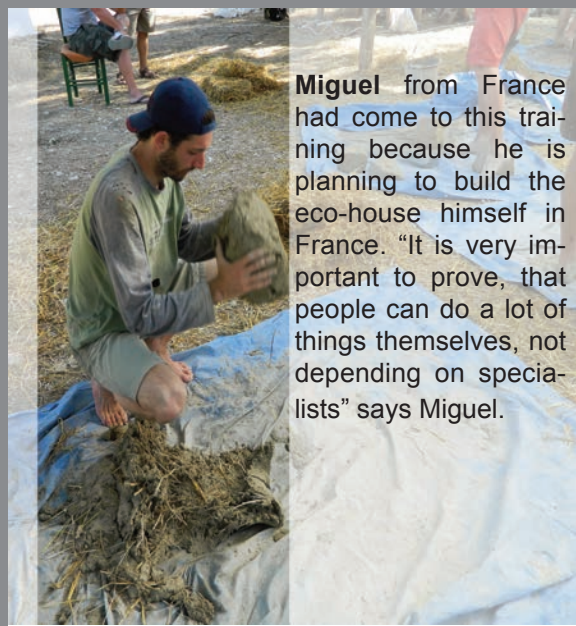
The feedback of the Participants



Varis from Latvia shares with us what he had learned during this training course: I learned the process of eco building using Greek traditional and ecological materials – clay, sand, straw and water. I learned the theory of construction, function and installation of the solar panel. I found out about the importance of the solar energy for saving the environment. I learned how to construct the eco – lamp from several components. I made progress in my knowledge about the ecological energy sources, especially thermal waters. I found out about the different techniques and materials of the traditional eco-building of such countries as: France, Italy, Spain, Romania, Hungary, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Palestine and Morocco.

I learned the theory and observed in the practice how biogas system is constructed and how it functions. I took part in the presentation and in discussions concerning the importance of the biogas systems for the sustainable development and the environment. These are only a few things Varis has written in his Youth pass.

Mona From Tunisia : I had a particular and special experience. I know now how to build a Eco-home, making a lamp and installation of the solar panel... Many things, I never imagined that one day I will do. I really felt the importance of nature. I developed my personal adjustment and my self-control. I made the discovery of Greece and I am making new friendships that I appreciated a lot. Thanks for this opportunity.



Miguel from France had come to this training because he is planning to build the eco-house himself in France. "It is very important to prove, that people can do a lot of things themselves, not depending on specialists" says Miguel.

Partners organizations

Association Scientifique les petits débrouillards de Tizi-Ouzou

Association Tadamon

Grupo de Desarrollo Rural Valle Del Guadalhorce

Club Culturel Ali Belhouane

Youth Association from Carpathian Basin (KIE)

Association for the Youth and Student in Partium (PIHE)

Azahra for thought and humanistic Science

NGO Jaunatne par iesaistisanos

Association des Amis de la Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture

Les Petits Débrouillards PACA

Stowarzyszenie EKOSKOP

Work in Progress

Development No Borders

Solidarity Tracks

Palestinian progressive Youth Union

Land and Human to Advocate Progress

Publicity Volunteers Association

