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## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS - ERASMUS+ PROJECT

Learning from S.P.A.R.R.O.W.S. 

(Social Permaculture As a Resource for Regenerative Open and Welcoming Societies)



Training Course - 4st-13th December, 2023

Ecovillage [Torri Superiore](#), Italy

## CONTENT

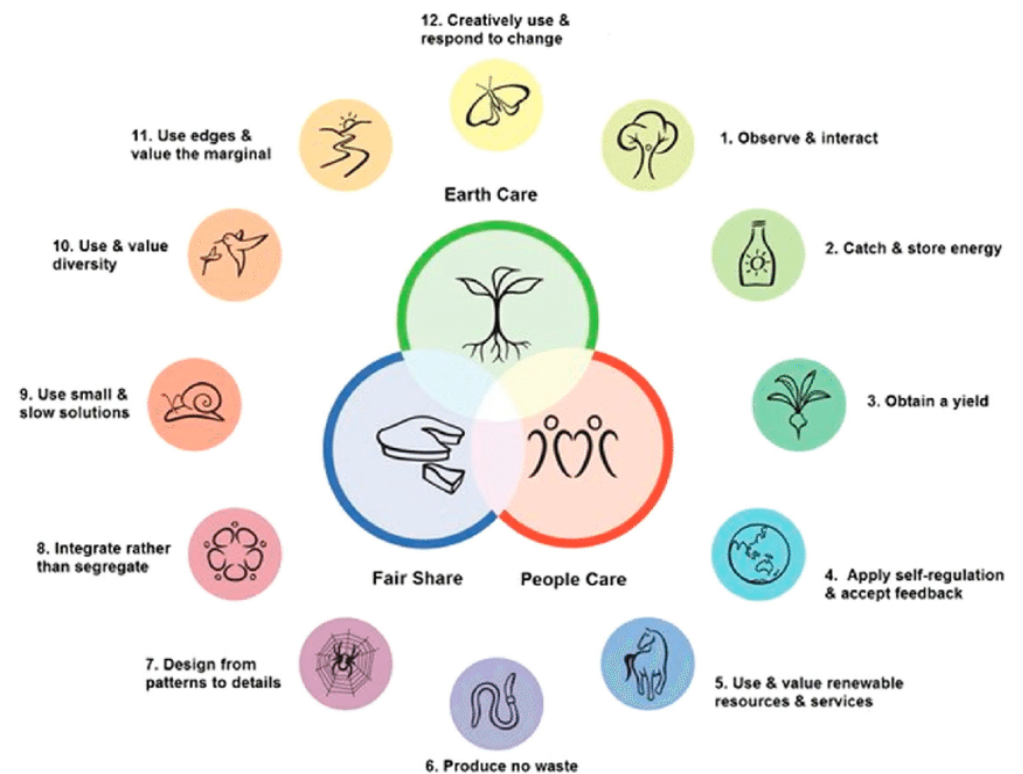
The need of ensuring a fair and decent livelihood for all people, regenerating nature and enabling biodiversity to thrive require systemic changes that cannot be achieved only through political agreements, financial incentives or technological innovations. Education plays a crucial role in achieving long-lasting change, and we believe that **social permaculture** can offer a set of skills, tools and methods that can effectively support educators to achieve this change.

We invite you to join a **training course for youth workers** that will happen in the ecovillage **Torri Superiore** in December 2023. The participants will be 27 youth workers from 11 countries that will get the chance to immerse themselves in the local reality and design an intervention combining elements of community building, weaving networks, support for migrants and refugees, social innovation, arts and creativity.

After the activity, a group of filmmakers will produce a short documentary about the experience and the participants will be asked to implement a creative intervention in their home country to apply what they learned.

## TOPICS AND METHODS

- social permaculture
- permaculture for refugees
- art on the edge
- environmental ethics



## VENUE

The mediaeval village of Torri Superiore is a small jewel of popular architecture located at the foothill of the Ligurian Alps, a few kilometres from the Mediterranean Sea and the French border, close to the coastal town of Ventimiglia. Originating in the thirteenth century, the village is structured in three main bodies with more than 160 rooms, all connected by an intricate fabric of stairways.

Its complex structure has often been compared to a fortress or a labyrinth, perched on the mountainside. The village has been entirely restored and is now open to ecotourism, for courses, meetings and programs of environmental education, and offers accommodation for stays and vacations. Its location close to the border between Italy and France, at the foot of global migration routes, makes it the perfect starting point to explore the concept of the edge from many points of view.



## **FACILITATORS**

### **Massimo Candela**

Massimo Candela is a long term resident at ecovillage Torri Superiore, where he coordinated the renovation of the mediaeval village for over 20 years; professionally he is also a part-time farmer. In 2000 he organised the first Permaculture Design Course in Italy, in 2003 he obtained the Applied Permaculture Design Certificate awarded by the British Permaculture Academy and was one of the founders of the Italian Academy of Permaculture. In 2004 and 2005 he participated in creating the international EDE - Ecovillage Design Education group of Gaia Education, and was part of the teachers team of Migrant Education program “Social Economic Integration of Migrants and Sicilian Youth through Organic products”. He is currently a teacher at the School of Sustainable Practices of Cascina Santa Brera.

### **Dražen Šimleša**

Fascinated by the idea of creating a recycled estate, Dražen is the coordinator of the Centres of Knowledge program of ZMAG - Green Network of Activist Groups and the Manager of the Cooperative for Good Economy . He is the coordinator of the European Network for Solidarity Economy - RIPESS. Dražen is also teaching far and wide about the practical application of sustainable development and solutions for a better world.

### **Marguerite Kahrl**

Marguerite Kahrl is an artist and designer who employs a wide range of interdisciplinary practices, processes, and media to facilitate new forms of inquiry into the relationship between “humans” and “nature.” Her projects are influenced by permaculture and settlement design that mimics natural ecosystems’ resilience, complexity, and balance to integrate human activity with natural surroundings. This ethic of care stands as a radical alternative to the mechanisms of exploitation and consumption that drive excess, waste, and destruction in the contemporary world.

## TRAVEL AND COSTS

Arrival day is Monday 4th of December after 14:00. Departure day is Wednesday 13th of December after breakfast. You need to be able to attend to the full duration of the activity in order to participate.

This project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the EU, which means that travel and participation costs are covered. Participants will have to buy their tickets in advance and will be reimbursed after the activity. If this arrangement is an obstacle to your participation, please let us know. The tickets will be reimbursed up to a maximum amount that depends on the country where the travel starts. To be eligible as a participant, your country of departure and arrival have to be the same.

### MAXIMUM REFUNDABLE AMOUNTS

210€ from Italy

275€ from Greece

320€ from Croatia, Spain, Portugal, France, Slovenia, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland and Serbia

### GREEN TRAVEL

To reduce the project's environmental footprint, all participants except those coming from Greek islands will be asked to avoid flying for travelling to and from the training. Please make sure that you are comfortable with this condition if you apply.

Participants from Hungary, Netherlands, Poland and Serbia will also be refunded for the costs of a maximum 1 overnight stay that they need to spend while travelling each way. Only for participants from Spain and Portugal the maximum number of nights will be 2 each way (4 in total). You will need to provide a proof of payment (tickets, etc.) and the maximum amount is 65€ per extra night. Food expenses along the way are not covered.

**IMPORTANT!** Please note that this measure is not intended to support holidays or other detours before or after the training, and that the amount spent will be refunded only if it is part of a coherent travel plan coming from and going back to your place of residence.



## HOW TO APPLY?

If you want to participate in this training, please fill [this questionnaire](#) before **Tuesday 31st of October, 2023**.

Participants' selection will be based upon the information that you share with us in the questionnaire and consultation with the project's partner organisations.