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Swiss programme for Erasmus+
Call 2023

Final report
Swiss programme for Erasmus+
cooperation projects

Please complete the final report in the same language as the project application. Submit the report with all attachments by email **within 60 days of the project end date** (see Art. 5 of the funding agreement) to the relevant email address (see last page).

➔ **Please enclose the official final report submitted by the coordinator to relevant agency.**

1. Project identification

Project type	Partnerships for Cooperation: Cooperation Partnerships
Project number	2021-KA220-ADU-510EDCB9
Project title	**Launch and Thrive - Awakening the networks**
Education sector	Adult education
Beneficiary organisation (full legal name)	Association APTES
Contact person (title, first name, last name)	Leonor Afonso
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Project duration	28.02.2022 - 27.05.2024
Reporting period (entire project duration)	28.02.2022 - 27.05.2024

2. Project summary

Please provide a **short** summary of the implemented EU project. Describe in particular which objectives have been achieved and, where appropriate, which of the original objectives have not been achieved. What results has the project produced?

The Launch and Thrive project, spanning from April 2022 to May 2024, focuses on empowering national ecovillage networks across Europe to foster active citizenship and promote sustainable development goals (SDGs). Through collaboration with European consortium National Agencies, the project includes three transnational meetings and produces three key intellectual outputs: a networking manual, an ICT platform, and an Online Learning Package (OLP). These outputs aim to provide a systematic approach to network building, knowledge sharing, and long-term sustainability of ecovillage initiatives.

The project activities were centered around transnational meetings and the production of intellectual products, with significant contributions from all partners. The mentorship aspect was particularly innovative, involving exchange programs where experienced networks like those in Switzerland and Ukraine supported developing networks through direct collaboration. These mentorship teams were crucial in producing the networking manual, which was tested and refined through practical application during the project's implementation. All the results at EU level are available here: https://gen-europe.org/discover/networks/

APTES played a positive role in the project by participating in all key activities, including the production of the networking manual (IO1), the development and population of the ICT platform (IO2), and the creation of the OLP (IO3). APTES also contributed to project management, including regular online meetings, establishing working groups, and organizing national network seminars and multiplier events in Switzerland. Our efforts in adapting project resources into French and organizing dissemination events significantly enhanced the project's reach and impact within the Swiss and French speaking ecovillage communities. You can find more information about our local and national informal network activities here : https://ecopol.net/projet-launch-thrive/

3. Project implementation

Project management

Describe how the project has been managed (forms / quality of cooperation, challenges, etc.). Base your answer both on the cooperation in the overall EU project and on the project management for the Swiss sub-project.

Due to the extended period of the project's implementation (new period is between 28.02.2022 and 27.05.2024) the project started in April 2022 after the contracts with the European consortium National Agencies were settled. The project has proceeded according to the schedule within this new adapted framework and a new Gantt chart was created to reflect the new implementation period.

The project activities were centered around three transnational meetings and the production of three intellectual products: a manual for networks, an ICT platform (including videos), and an Online Learning Package to transmit the gathered knowledge. All these outputs will be described in detail in this report. A twinning process between with exchange between some of the partners was directly integrated as a trial mentoring package, as an innovative action learning process. Both the partners in Switzerland and Ukraine went through many of the processes on which the manual was based, thus testing the manual at the same time as it was being produced.

The project is named 'Launch and Thrive,' and that is what it can offer to the long-term vision, that civil society need to organise in networks to gain more voice and impact, in order to promote active participation of citizenship in the climate debate, initiatives focused on the SDGs, and showing a citizen path to European cooperation on these issues.

The Launch and Thrive project took its shape as an explorative process, based on the interchange between the national ecovillage networks that participated as pilots for mentorship and setting up a system of providing substantial inputs for the manual, exploring both challenges, success stories and illustrative examples. The guidelines in the manual were thus derived from a straight experience/action learning approach throughout the project.

The expected results of the project included, as outcomes in the long term:
• Empowerment of national ecovillage networks to become increasingly functional, strong, and active, not only nationally, but also in the European network of networks.
• A systematic approach to networking and establishing support structures.
• Higher success rates for national ecovillage networks and their ability to mobilize, impact, and thrive.

On a shorter and more concrete note, the immediate results are naturally linked to the goals and objectives, following the description of the Intellectual Outputs pursued.

The tangible results include the following:
A) An online accessible NETWORKING MANUAL (IO1), as a qualitative framework for how to set up national ecovillage networks and ensuring that they continue to thrive. Included in the manual is a format of text, examples and guiding questions, how to put the manual into action and set up functional and thriving national networks. It is both produced in a downloadable form (PDF) and as a Wiki.

A mentorship aspect was experienced throughout the project, with partners teaming up with Denmark/Ukraine, Switzerland/Italy, and Baltic Ecovillage Network/GEN Europe Spain as designated mentorship teams. This mentorship model was reinforced through an exchange of key persons from each partner organisation, allowing for both in-person mentoring and support from the more experienced national networks to experiential learning from the upcoming national networks, resulting in long-lasting, trusting bridges between the participating organisations. It was the first time to experiment with this model and it has proven quite succesfull and definitely something to pursue in other projects.

B) Setting up an ICT PLATFORM (IO2) to systematize the provision of information about different kinds of national ecovillage networks, but also knowledge sharing and problem solving, to strengthen cooperation on the European level and minimize the distance between the national and the European level, through the use of online and digital tools. Information Technology was one of the core elements that enabled the European Ecovillage Network to remain active. To be able to achieve and keep that desired level of connection, enabling different online services was used as at strategy to cater to national ecovillage networks' needs. It is also strongly believed in the partnership that self-hosted, Free Open Source Software was the best way to cover those needs.

C) Showcasing national ecovillage networks through SHORT VIDEOS promoting networking activities for active citizenship, with a European component strengthening national efforts. All the project results were disseminated through the GEN Europe website, on its own ICT platform where there were previously no resources or facilitation of national network building. The project has therefore contributed significantly to close this gap. The project of the Swiss French speaking informal

network is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vr-7q-T5dY
D) An ONLINE LEARNING PACKAGE (IO3) focusing on thriving ecovillage networks and the use of the developed teaching resources. By reaching out to hundreds of ecovillage enthusiasts, the Online Learning Package (OLP) has complemented and reinforced the IO1 and IO2 while it can contribute to the sustainability of the project's results. The platform serve as a reference point for life-long learning about creating and sustaining successful networks and can be used way beyond the project duration. The OLP serves as an example of truly cross-cutting disciplines in teaching and learning, as an inovative tool for the project partners who were new to this form. The OLP was trialed and developed further through the Training of Trainers event, where future OLP trainers were immersed into the project results and could take ownership to the OLP.

Here are concrete activities that have taken place and with the contribution of the Swiss partner:
- 3 TPM. We held the Transnational Project Meetings according to the schedule. The first was held in Denmark in July 2022. The second TPM happened in Italy in January 2023, and the third TPM happened in December 2023 in Germany.
- The exchange program between partners (BEN/ GEN Europe, LOES/GEN Ukraine, and APTES/ GEN Italy)
- IO1 (Manual for network building): Partners (including APTES) collaborated to produce and complete all the templates for the completion of the IO.
- IO2 (Webplatform for info sharing): The research on the various online platforms has been completed and it was used to populate the platform with content. Several videos have been produced and uploaded.
- IO3 (Online Learning Package for network building): We have built a pool of OLP expert supporters, and gathered input on OLP issues from the different GEN members and other local stakeholders. When looking at OLPs, we decided on Moodie because of its open source approach. We have also held an overarching meeting with the group leading the content of IO3 to explore partners' capabilities and introduce them to the tool.

Project management:
- In addition, partners held regular online meetings on the progression of the project. APTES participated in all the meetings.
- We created the logo, templates and visual identity of the project.
- Working groups were established (Financial management, project management and coordination, Communication and dissemination, etc).
- A cross-section group was created, which forms the link between all IOs.
- A national network seminar was held in all partners. In Switzerland, we organised participation in several face-to-face events (for example: GEN Suisse 29.9.22 , APRES VAUD 20.10.2022). A list of the events here.
- APTES adapted the project OERs in French for other training organisations to reuse.
- We organised a multiplier event entitled "1er septembre 2023 conférence pour le réseau des éco-lieux de la Suisse Romande" with videos and photos published.

The project activities were split into the following main categories:
A) National exploration and network building. The short videos showcasing the national ecovillage networks also served as internal networking and international networking tools. Furthermore, the multiplier events organised in each of the partner organisations' countries had a twofold benefit, 1) testing the project's deliverables and 2) strengthening national cooperation within the national ecovillage network.

B) Peer processes through the IO teams, working groups, and the mentorship/twinning program, between meetings. The exchange program between the twinned partner organisations was aimed to establish long-lasting collaborative relationships.
C) Transnational meetings where the project deliverables were presented for feedback from the whole partnership, and where the project progress was measured.
D) Testing the usefulness of the manual, ICT platform and OLP among other national ecovillage networks through multiplier events in the partner organisations' countries and at the Training of Trainers.
E) Wider dissemination through ECOLISE and GEN International.
F) Visiting exchange between the GEN Italy and the Ecopol Ecovillage. During our project we managed to invite and host two members of the GEN Italy network.

Overall, the project evolved in distinctly different phases, which were the following:
The DEVELOPMENT PHASE of output production where brainstorming, innovating, exploration, sharing of experiences, testing the universality of best practices, and inputs from other resourceful partners played a vital role in the actual production of the IOs.
The phase of TESTING led to necessary improvements of the intellectual outputs, insights gained through practical application and feedback processes with a range of different target groups and nationalities, through the multiplier events, leading to enhanced quality in all the IO products. The DISSEMINATION phase happened partly in parallel with earlier phases and was crucial to the success and impact of the project. The EVALUATION phase closed the cycle of the project's lifetime. The project results (IO development in particular) were linked to the activities and phases as described, thereby reaching the desired objectives through this project, which aimed to be useful for national ecovillage networks of different kinds, even regional, beyond this partnership.

Challenges during the project

Due to negotiations with the German Erasmus Agency and other delays at the beginning of the project, the new period of the project's implementation is between 28.02.2022 and 27.05.2024.

The start of the project was delayed because of internal changes in the GEN EU structure and the project itself took some extra time to start due to the necessity to find a new project manager because there was no official contact person for GEN EU for the first month (The project writer went into maternity leave).

There was also a bureaucratic initial delay with a signature coming from the Ukrainian partner. This was another factor that had a significant impact at the start of the project. This period end up coinciding with the beginning of the war in Ukraine, which caused additional delays. During the 1st weeks of the implementation of the project, partners came up with a support network of solidarity to help the Ukrainian partner cope with some of the immediate needs caused by the unexpected war. The war conflict end up having significant impacts on the project as the Ukranian partners were going through very unstable and dramatic life situations.

The implementation started with the redistribution of tasks in the partnership since there was a change in one of the partner organizations of the European Consortium due to the lack of internal resources of the initial partner. The tasks from RIVE were

reassigned to Ture Nirvane. Otherwise, the partner constellation has not changed. The partnership was updated because Ture Nirvane has a more solid organizational structure and more experience with participation in international projects, while RiVE is based exclusively on freelancers. Moreover, Ture Nirvane was involved in the foundation of RiVE and the entire history of the network.

The tasks vary a little as originally planned. Thus, the competencies shift was due to the best results, we deploy people where they can contribute with their strengths. Also, the hourly distribution per partner changes with the intellectual output and will become clear at a later stage of the project report. This will lead to a different distribution of the hours per partner within each output, and the final distribution will only become clear at the end of the project. The distribution of the budget between the different partners will be different.

On our side, our organization was also part of a big internal transformation. Not long after the official beginning of the project, the ecovillage La Smala was absorbed by its mother company, APTES. This required a bit of internal readjustment to guarantee the good progression of the project on our side.
Also, the APTES project officer (PO) who was running the project changed in December 2022. Because of personal goals, she left the organization to pursue a new master's degree in a different field. A temporary new project officer was invited to the project and onboarded by the previous PO.

Also, we also had to finding solutions to mitigate the difficulties with the exchange programme between Italy and Switzerland. Our Italian partners did not have the resources to receive participants to this activity. On our side, we remained open and ready to fully participate in the exchange activity. In the end, 2 participants came to Switzerland from Italy for a period of 2 months.

DELAYS
The progress of the production of the intellectual outputs was closely monitored by the L&T council. All teams working on the IOs were required to report back to the council and the whole group (through RocketChat) on a regular basis about their progress, including any delays that occurred from time to time. But every working group could come up with a plan how to deal with the delay in the way of a skillfull coordination between the groups, so that the overall project plan did not delay. The council decided some re-distributions of tasks within the partnership for bringing in differently skilled people to help achieve the project goals. Especially for GEN Ukraine it seemed difficult to focus on this project in a difficult time, which is why they gave some of their tasks in the IO's away to other partners.
CHANGES DUE TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE
The exchange to Ukraine from the Danish representative happened only in 2024, two times. Awaiting more stability in the country, simply. Nevertheless, there has been a lot of twinning processes online, but also due to the Ukrainian representative staying longer in Denmark, as a consequence. Another change caused by the war was the final TPM location. Initially it was planned to do it in Ukraine, but because of the conflict the partners decided on moving the meetings to Germany in December 2023.

BUDGET
There was a bit more resources needed for specific areas of the project, so money was shifted from other budget lines, because there were areas where funds could rightfully be reallocated. It was made clear to all partners that the budget approved by

the NA was what they had to work with and if there was extra work or costs to be paid for, whatever the reason, it needed to come from the partners' own resources.

CONFLICTS

A few single conflicts arised and there was an internal support structure of mediation, where a third party would always be involved in the resolution process. On top of that, several of the partners had experienced mediators who could help the group solve an upcoming conflict, either through online meetings or, preferably, during one of the transnational meetings. The ecovillage movement, represented by many of the project partners, carries with it a long tradition of attention towards conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and skills development training in this field. An emphasis was put on conflict prevention rather than conflict resolution. The partnership was limited in partners, so it was not a huge group when meeting. The facilitator's role during the transnational projects meetings was to make sure all voices were being heard, everyone in the group got a chance to speak up, that discussions were brought to a close, and that any decisions taken were adequately documented. All documentation was kept in an online workspace for optimized transparency, and those who might not have been present at a meeting, online or face-to-face, were informed of the outcomes of the meeting.

The Launch & Thrive project provided the Swiss partner the opportunity to participate as an associate partner to all activities of the project, including preparation of intellectual outputs, training, project meetings and dissemination. More specifically, they promoted good practices and training material as Open Educational Resources of the project through their Ecovillage(s) network (http://ecopol.net/), the Swiss GEN, ECOLISE and training partners such as the University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland. It adapted the project OERs in French for other training organisations to reuse.

The communication officer from GEN Europe linked with APTES, sharing information, coordinating dissemination activities. The Swiss partner was included in all mailing lists and communication channels in a way that assured their contribution like any other partner in the consortium. We were involved in all meetings, training events, and dissemination events.

APTES has contributed in the following ways:

•   Created the logo of the project
•   Participated in all online monthly meetings and activities of the project;
•   Sent 1 staff member to all TPMs (Denmark, Italy and Germany);
•   Participated in the evaluation of the online and TPM meetings, and the results were positive;
•   Participated in the development of all IOs an of the project;
•   Participated in local events to disseminate the project and it's outcomes;
•   Involved local ecovillages in the project to better understand and implement the project locally.
•   Translated all main results and outputs of the project to the national French language so it can be used by more people.
•   Exploit and disseminate the main results of the project outside of the partnership and in Switzerland.
•   Launched an informal Swiss Romande Ecovillage network

We also invited and hosted 2 members of the GEN Italy network, Martina Vera D'Agostino and Nicollo Licari. You can find more information about this activity here : https://ecopol.net/temoignages/?et_fb=1&PageSpeed=off

As associated parters we contributed and followed up to all project's activities and IOs available here :
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1YMvdyrgBpA0YdpYc4dBS_pc4fezlE4Bn

IO1 Manual for network building
IO2 Web platform for info sharing
IO3 Online Learning Package for network building

At the same time, we are keeping a detailed list of all content that we created and shared with our partenrs here :
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jW_QvSLrO21sLtVF81WZKJz8EOj3GByv57mhus1ylS8/edit#gid=0

We also participated in all the bimonthly online meetings (always the last week of the month), where content-related and organizational aspects are clarified. The meetings are prepared, moderated and recorded by the coordinator. In addition, bilateral meetings are held between the coordinator and the partner organizations (including APTES) responsible for PR activities whenever useful.
APTES also contributed to the project coordination, development of roadmap and milestones, budget control, etc.. Moreover, APTES contributed to the dissemination of project results thus enlarging the outreach of project impact involving our organization stakeholders' network.

When it comes to the collaboration between the consortium of partners, the project coordinators are experienced in E+ projects and bring this knowledge profitably to the project. The cooperation between the partner institutions in the project works well. Problems and challenges were early identified and actions were taken to overcome them without conflict.

Groups were early established, such as a financial group with the financial managers of each partner organisation, the project manager and a coordination group consisting of the IO leaders and the project manager of the project, the dissemination group, etc. Even though APTES has it's own budget, we follow the work of this group in order to insure proper financial management and to keep the same standards of the rest of the partners. In addition, a cross-section group has been formed, to better integrate the work of all three IOs and allows them to cooperate in the best possible way. The dissemination and communication group have regular online meetings and create dissemination materials for the project, which are published regularly.
In addition, a National Network Seminar and other face to face activities were held by all partners, which they organized in their own networks (without budget - A budget is provided only for the second major multiplier event).

The L&T COUNCIL consisted of one primary contact person from each of the partners. Additionally, key persons from each partner were selected to serve as the secondary contact person. The council met monthly and managed the progress of the project, monitored IO development, and conducted shared dissemination activities.
A COORDINATION TEAM with each of the IO leads was formed, supplemented by the GEN Europe project manager. The led the council meetings and the overall coordination.
A COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION GROUP consisted of people specifically skilled; staff or volunteers from each of the partner organisations. This group consisted of six participants, led by the communications manager of GEN Europe. The video productions for national ecovillage networks were managed in this group,

and therefore people were selected with specific skill-set from their respective organisations, who had experience in video shooting, editing, and publishing

Project implementation

Adopt the work packages from the Swiss application and evaluate the achievement of objectives.

Work package	Objectives / results	Measures / activities	Indicators	Evaluation of achievement of objectives (1-4)[1]

If objectives have not been fully achieved, explain why.

All objectives have been achieved at a level of 4. The table above is not editable. All the needed information are in the analysis below.

WP1- MANUAL for network building

The manual for network building, which is available in a long and a short version - is for national networks to 'Launch and Thrive'. The files are downloadable on our website, while it also works as a Wiki: https://git.geneurope.org/launch-and-thrive/network-manual/-/wikis/home .It integrates survey results from national networks, success stories, challenges, examples and guiding questions. The files are Illustrated with images from different national networks in Europe.
A mentorship aspect was piloted throughout the project, with partners teaming up (Switzerland/Italy) as designated mentorship teams. This mentorship model was reinforced through an exchange of key persons from each partner organisation, allowing for both in-person mentoring and support from the more experienced national networks to experiential learning from the upcoming national networks, resulting in long-lasting, trusting bridges between the participating organisations.
It was the first time to experiment with this model and it has proven quite successful and definitely something to pursue in other projects. The IO1 team for the manual connected to the elements of Launch and Thrive, as both form part of the manual, targeting new networks to set off and offers a suggested roadmap for how to thrive, as a network. The "thrive" part is the most innovative part of the work on this IO. An important step is to exchange existing experiences, challenges and best practices and to compile this information in a transferable way. A "Network Accountability Tool" was developed, but also a network Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats (SWOT) tool for network analysis The inputs for IO1 were sourced from a survey (IO2) for national networks on a European scale and used as a base for the OLP (IO3) thereby creating synergy between the IO's.

WP2 - Web platform for information sharing

 This ICT PLATFORM systematizes the provision of information about different kinds of national ecovillage networks, but also knowledge sharing and problem solving, to strengthen cooperation on the European level and minimize the distance between the national and the European level, through the use of online and digital tools.
A place to find all the materials developed though the project:
–	Inspiring videos

[1] 1: not achieved; 2: partially achieved; 3: achieved; 4: exceeded

–   A map
–   A collection of online tools
–   The manual
–   The OLP of the project. https://gen-europe.org/discover/networks/

The IO2 team on the web platform for information sharing focused on three following areas:
1) Presentation of National Networks, showcasing the volume, scope and variety.
2) An online survey function for data gathering, for national networks to cooperate more strongly and for the link between a respective national network and GEN Europe to be close and without unnecessary distance.
3) Exploring and providing different web services that can assist national networks to fulfill their online presence and work.
Information Technology was one of the core elements that enabled the European Ecovillage Network to remain active. To be able to achieve and keep that desired level of connection, enabling different online services was used as at strategy to cater to national ecovillage networks' needs. It is also strongly believed in the partnership that self-hosted, Free Open Source Software was the best way to cover those needs. The use of the tools was gone through systematically throughout the project, at the meetings and at the ToT.

WP3 - Open Learning Package for network building

This is the online learning content that the partners have developed as a new feature in the GEN Europe universe. 3 different modules compose the L&T course at the OLP. https://learn.gen-europe.org/moodle/ .The OLP focuses on thriving ecovillage networks and the use of the developed teaching resources.
A Online Learning Package (OLP) as an online course aimed at unlimited participation offers open access via the web. It is an inviting package of learning opportunities where you can embark on an exciting expedition into the world of networking. In its comprehensive program, can can dive deep into the art of "Awakening the Networks," equipping you with essential skills and strategies to not only initiate but also nurture and expand a network successfully.
By reaching out to hundreds of ecovillage enthusiasts, the Online Learning Package (OLP) has complemented and reinforced the IO1 and IO2 while it can contribute to the sustainability of the project's results. The platform serves as a reference point for life-long learning about creating and sustaining successful networks and can be used way beyond the project duration. The OLP serves as an example of truly cross-cutting disciplines in teaching and learning, as an innovative tool for the project partners who were new to this form. The OLP was trialed and developed further through the Training of Trainers event, where future OLP trainers were immersed into the project results and could take ownership to the OLP.

4. Impact and distribution in Switzerland or with specific relevance for Switzerland

Impact

What impact does the project have on the institution(s) in Switzerland and beyond at regional, national and international level?

IMPACT on our organisation
The participating facilitators and trainers involved in the project enhanced their professional skills through the peer-to-peer exchange while working on the creation of the project results. The participating trainers increased their professional network of like-minded trainers in other European countries that they can use for future collaborations. All participants acquired a good working knowledge of the manual and will increase their awareness of the factors of success when incubating a national ecovillage network. They were empowered to facilitate new ecovillage networks as well as have the necessary skills to make them thrive. In other words, the project has contributed greatly to the base of content available. At the same time the group will have added experience of working in an international team and will have a greater understanding of how to reach national and international audiences through the OLP.

We consider that Launch and Thrive activities increased our international activities and collaboration, acquire higher levels of skills for our staff and enhance our profile. In particular our:
- pool of skilled trainers that can use the manual for mentorship
- experience in participating and networking in an international project with partners from diverse cultural backgrounds
- strengthen and diversify the national network activities
- capacities in implementing cooperation and networking

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT
The results of this project can have are both a social and economic impact by: a) contributing to more sustainable and collaborative communities for Smala Ecovillage, GEN Switzerland and other swiss based ecovillages and eco communities, b) venturing with new entrepreneurship models that are discussed and initiated within the communities and c) networking, currently isolated, eco- communities and ecovillages in various swiss cantons. The impact will focus on the growth of national networks in Switzerland and in Europe, but also on supporting more established networks in order to prosper and become stronger. The project is called 'Launch and thrive' and that is what it offers to the long-term vision: civil society needs to network to gain a better voice and impact to promote active participation of citizens in the climate debate, initiatives focused on the SDGs and showing a citizen path to cooperation on these issues.

In terms of numbers, Smala Ecopol ecovillage includes 30 inhabitants today and 30 more individuals working in various structures (Ynternet.org, APTES, La Smala, Bâtir Groupé and Ecosupport). The internal impact of this project is unmeasurable as staff from all organisations from the cluster had the chance to be trained and their skills were improved.

IMPACT ON ALL GEN Europe and GEN Switzerland members and active networking capacities from thriving national networks of ecovillages:

Materials and tools were developed, namely the manual OLP and the ICT tools. The materials are valuable website content and a base for further development of network growth. At the same time the twinning component exposed the target group to the realities of other networks which can be both inspiring and empowering. There will always be growth and learning from international exchange even from an experienced partner to a less experienced one, besides the gratification of being able to support others in solidarity. Upon its completion Launch and Thrive will have the most obvious impact on these target groups. The greatest impact of the project will be a systemic approach to network building including guidelines (manual), assistance (mentorship) and coordination (ICT platform), but also showcasing the national networks, their successes and challenges (videos). By reaching out to ecovillage enthusiasts, the OLP will complement and reinforce the IO1 and 2 while it will contribute to the sustainability of the project's results. The impact on this target group will be that they have the necessary tools to successfully launch their national network and make it thrive and a stronger national network in a country, thus providing a more qualitative and coordinated response to new groups.

Synergies and cooperation between the partner organisations are enhanced with respect to cross- sectoral and interdisciplinary adult online education in general, and different applications of digital literacy in particular. Training offers better aligned to the needs of the country in the field of network building and sustainable development

The expected results of the project included, as outcomes in the long term:
• Empowerment of national ecovillage networks to become increasingly functional, strong, and active, not only nationally, but also in the European network of networks.
• A systematic approach to networking and establishing support structures.
• Higher success rates for national ecovillage networks and their ability to mobilize, impact, and thrive.
On a shorter and more concrete note, the immediate results are naturally linked to the goals and objectives, following the description of the Intellectual Outputs pursued.

What are the most valuable lessons learnt from the project for you, your team and your partners? What were the highlights?

Upon completing the project, it became evident that promoting a transition to greener practices and more sustainable ways of living and working requires increased attention to eco-initiatives and grassroots communities of practice.

Investment and Resources
Significant investment is needed to build and sustain a functional network over the long term. The project highlighted that organizing and maintaining such networks demands substantial resources, far exceeding what can be accomplished within a single project. To effectively address the issues discussed in this project, it is crucial to multiply similar initiatives and allocate new resources to broaden the scope of these discussions.

Formalizing Networks
There is a critical need to formalize these informal yet essential networks, particularly in terms of management practices, organizational models, workload distribution, budgeting, and overall effort. Establishing concrete structures will enhance the efficiency and impact of these networks.
Governance within Eco-initiatives

Governance within eco-initiatives, such as ecovillages, remains a complex issue. Achieving consensus and managing conflicts require significant attention. The interactions among eco-inhabitants can be intricate, necessitating more efforts to develop functional and adaptive social contracts. Balancing daily tasks, workload, and human capacity is challenging, underscoring the need for robust governance frameworks within the movement.

External Dissemination
Efforts should extend beyond the ecovillage movement to disseminate the impacts and results more widely. It is crucial to raise the visibility of these initiatives and foster broader societal discussions on these issues. Engaging with other institutions and amplifying the conversation on a larger scale is essential to ensure these topics are taken seriously and to drive meaningful change.

In conclusion, to foster sustainable living and working practices, we must invest more in eco-initiatives, formalize grass roots networks, improve governance within eco-initiatives, and enhance the external dissemination of their impacts. Only through sustained effort and broader societal engagement can we achieve lasting progress in these areas.

Are there any follow-up activities planned in the near future in connection with the implemented project (e.g., new projects, exchange activities, etc.)? Please explain.

Future Activities and Commitments

After the project's completion, partners have decided to continue its activities, demonstrating our commitment to disseminating the results and further developing the community of practice established by the project.

APTES will participate in the Festival Alternatiba 2024, focusing on the same topics addressed by the project. Our involvement in eco-initiatives in Switzerland will persist through the development of French-speaking learning materials to support networks and ecovillages during their transitions.

To expand the ecovillage movement in Switzerland and France, it is crucial to increase efforts in uniting French-speaking informal communities around alternative ways of living and working.

We will continue our participation in GEN Europe activities and broader European discussions. Our organization will send members to the GEN General Assembly to collaborate and contribute. Additionally, we will maintain our involvement with ECOLISE and GEN networks, serving as delegates and participating in their events as representatives.

Partners are currently evaluating the feasibility of a new application to build on the concluding proposal. We believe it is essential to keep investing resources in communities of practice for sustainability and greener practices.

Dissemination

Which dissemination activities (publications, events, documentation, etc.) relating to the project have been undertaken in Switzerland or with specific relevance for Switzerland?

Our dissemination log is available here :
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19sDb0Hr3pTuNj_yJs05rENKa_S7vm0Spz2EoZX-b4KQ/edit#gid=0

The most important disseminiation event was the multiplier event held during the Alternatiba Genève on the 1.9.2023. The meeting was entitled "A meeting between urban and rural ecovillages" The main idea was to move beyond low-cost housing in cooperatives, what are the developments of eco-communities with a sober and supportive lifestyle, in Romandie and neighboring France and to find the complementarities and solidarities between urban and rural ecovillages. The links with the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) and our project were obvious and well received.

Participants included 40 members of different eco-initiatives and was animated Françoise Cogitore (Smala de Cheiry ecovillage), Benoit Molineaux (Equilibre Genève cooperative), Nicolas Briez (ecovillage incubator), Théo Bondolfi (Berber de Grandvaux ecovillage), Frédéric Viret of Tiocan ecolieu (Thoiry). The link of the video created for documentation purposes is available here :
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eq88Gx9y_8o

Overall, our dissemination consists both of digital activities (newsletter campaigns, website and social media posts) as well as face to face meetings to ecovillage events, network meetings, festivals etc. The launch of the project and its first steps were reported on the GEN Europe website (gen-europe.org) and on our social media channels (website, Instagram and Facebook). The report was also disseminated through the channels of Yes to Sustainability, a large and dynamic network of young people committed to sustainability created under GEN EU, which will hopefully inspire future national youth networks using L&T tools. We created a unique graphic identity (logo and visuals) that can be used in different formats to identify the project, as well as dissemination materials such as a branded presentation and texts that can be translated into any of the project languages.

As the project results evolved, we developed more targeted dissemination campaigns highlighting each of the Intellectual Outputs through attractive graphics, presentations, and articles aimed at each of the target audiences.

Our target audiences are primarily board members, staff, volunteers and other activists in national ecovillage networks, initiators of new networks, and secondarily similar networks and activist groups such as Transition Networks that can benefit from the insights and tools we provide through the project. Therefore, presenting at the National Network Meeting was a primary goal that we achieved, and we plan to disseminate the project also at the national network meetings of each country, as well as at the Europe-wide Ecovillage Meeting, which welcomed not only existing and potential network founders within the ecovillage movement, but also activists from other movements and networks, so it was an excellent opportunity for cross-fertilization.

Currently, the most important external impact is the presentation and working group discussion at the National Networks meeting, where more than 30 participants from networks across Europe (outside the project) heard about Launch and Thrive, as well as the several videos that have already been produced and uploaded. They discussed not only their potential aspirations for such a project, but also how it might inspire their own networks and new networks. As we disseminate the Intellectual Outputs, we will monitor feedback to further measure their external impact even after

the end of the project lifecycle. The target groups did not change in comparison to the ones identified in the application form.

TARGET GROUPS
Primary target groups:
• Board members and active networking capacities from thriving national ecovillage networks
• Initiators of new national ecovillage networks who not yet consolidated
The long term and secondary target group consists of all the national ecovillage networks that still do not exist or need assistance to thrive. The youth take a special role as many initiatives and networking processes are led by engaged youth of the ecovillages. Importantly, this long term and secondary target group includes networks, activist groups and citizen initiatives beyond the scope of ecovillages, who are in line with the ecovillage movements values.

A national ecovillage networks mailing list was used to disseminate all of the project's outputs in detail. The mailing list reached about 300 key persons involved in national ecovillage networks in Europe in all stages of development during the first half of the project. Unfortunately the mailing list was discontinued after that and GEN Europe used other channels to reach representatives of national networks through its membership mailing list, a specific Telegram channel and general newsletter. At the bi-yearly national ecovillage networks meeting, a presentation of the project's developments and results was presented. These events were key for effective dissemination because they directly reached the target audience and gave them the opportunity to ask questions, take materials with them, and give their feedback on the IOs. This gave them a certain level of ownership of the project, although they were not included in the project as official partners. They served as bees spreading the outcomes of the project into their countries. They were informed about the project's results and stimulated to share the results with their networks.
A final webinar attended by international participants was conducted in May 2024.

The project used the EPALE platform in several ways to enhance the quality of the project through peer exchange with colleagues from other adult education organizations and to better disseminate project results. The project appreciated the opportunity to communicate on the EPALE platform with adult educators from backgrounds that could be different from their own, reaching out to a wider audience beyond their own networks. They introduced the notion of successful network building to a wider circle of people and organizations. External (voluntary) reviewers of the manual were found on the platform and several people expressed their interest. In this way, the project hoped to reach out to potential networks beyond their known and existing networks and communication channels. The Danish partner presented the project at a national EPALE event, showcasing good examples of collaboration.

The participants from each of the partner organizations were not only potential facilitators and trainers in network building, but also people forming the councils and boards of the networks. They were encouraged to form their own aspiring peer-to-peer network within and between countries. The manual needs to be used by facilitators to run processes and methods with national ecovillage networks, both for internal use and externally. It was therefore important that representatives from the partners had facilitator potential. The NATIONAL TEAMS were composed in each country, consisting of board members, staff, active members of the network, and other stakeholders/resource persons. This also linked the national teams to the European project and served as a teaser for new people to engage beyond their national

borders.

Furthermore, all partners organized at least two multiplier events at a national level (one funded through the management and implementation funds), one for their own national network in the first half of the project span and one in the latter end of the project, where results were tested, qualified, and disseminated, among other national networks in the country, respectively. The latter being the real multiplier event financed through its own budget group.

In Switzerland
Dissemination activities targeted at organisations that are directly or indirectly involved in providing services to meet the needs of ecovillages as well as organisations involved in promoting and supporting social entrepreneurship.

Channels:
A. All main project outcomes are available through the Erasmus+ Dissemination platform;
B. Websites (both global website and the website www.APTES.org);
C. Social media: the project will keep raising awareness of its activities using social media, e.g. Facebook.
D. Project updates/press releases: the project sent out periodic updates on its activities by e-mail via the APTES newsletter (over 2,000 French-speaking subscribers) and the mailing list of GEN-Suisse in German and also to the relevant newspapers and magazines.
E. Video films: APTES and its Swiss partners prepared several short training videos, which can be posted online for download and promoted to targeted organisations and audiences.
F. Wikipedia: Articles were extended and initiated on Wikipedia, Ekopedia, etc. benefiting from APTES team's expertise in writing articles on Wiki-based collaborative media.

This includes the following beneficiaries:
- APTES network of experts (5'600 registered supporters, out of which 122 formal active contributors/members and an average of 50 engineers and sustainable development experts);
- Swiss federation of housing cooperatives, www.wbg-schweiz.ch, and its Romandie sister organization, www.armoup.ch;
- Municipalities engaged into processes of evaluating the attribution of new lands for eco quartier;
- Scientific collaborators of academic institutes and universities dedicated to or interested in sustainable development;
- APRES-VD, Chamber of Social and Solidarity Economy in Vaud canton, incubated by Smala from 2005 to 2009; - Ashoka Switzerland and Ashoka international;
- Woofing network Switzerland;
- Eco-building network of professionals;
- Trainers and Managers at non-profit Banks and fair credit institutes, such as Alternative Bank Schweiz, Banque Raiffeisen, Banque Coop, etc...
- Public of large Swiss events and fairs such as MEDNAT, Festival de la Terre, forum des coopératives d'habitation, week of mobility organized by public services at the 3 levels (national, state, municipalities), slow-ups days;
- Different media (newspapers, websites, social media, newsletters).

Conclusion

Have you developed any quality practices / products as a result of your participation in the project? (1-5)
-     1: not at all
-     2: not really
-     3: somewhat
-     4: yes, fairly
-     5: yes, absolutely

To what extent do the materials developed as part of the project and the international institutional cooperation/networking represent added value for the Swiss education system? (Objective of the funding programme)

> 4 is the answer to the question above.
>
> We have developed comprehensive materials and documentation on effective cohabitation practices. These resources include awareness materials to educate and inform communities about cohabitation dynamics.
>
> Special attention has been given to the French-speaking community, offering tailored educational materials for internal use within ecovillages. These materials, designated as IO1 and IO3, are designed to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of ecovillage members, fostering a supportive and well-informed community.
>
> Our findings indicate that while networks can be established, they often face governance challenges, both within the networks and individual initiatives. Addressing these governance issues and resource needs is crucial for the sustainability of such networks.
>
> To support these networks, we have focused on sharing best practices, providing assistance, and finding solutions to common problems. Our resources also cover conflict resolution, handling legal issues, and other challenges that may arise.

5. Project budget

Notes:
- ➔ Please enclose the financial overview duly completed and signed by the organisation's authorised signatory.
- ➔ This financial report covers the complete Swiss project and not just the grants awarded by Movetia.
- ➔ Supporting documents (e.g. account statements) and receipts do not have to be submitted, but must be kept for 10 years in case of an audit (see GTC).

If you have reallocated funding between the cost categories and / or work packages (compared to the budget submitted), please provide an explanation and justification.

> None to report

6. Additional useful information

If applicable, please provide any additional information deemed necessary for a comprehensive overview of the implemented project:

None to report

Feedback to Movetia

You may provide feedback to Movetia regarding the application process, support, and regarding the Swiss Erasmus+ programme:

None to report

Signature

The undersigned confirms that the information in this final report is correct and true.

Place:	Date (DD-MM-YYYY):
Name of the beneficiary organisation	Association APTES
Name authorised signatory:	Lucelia Ferreira
Signature:	
Stamp of the beneficiary organisation (if available)	

Please **email a signed version of the final report** and the financial overview **to Movetia** by the deadline.

☐ Cooperation projects in school education

      Email to schulbildung@movetia.ch

Cooperation projects in vocational education and training

      Email to berufsbildung@movetia.ch

Cooperation projects in higher education and higher vocational education and training

      Email to highereducation@movetia.ch

☒ Cooperation projects in adult education

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☐ Cooperation projects in the youth sector

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