

the 13th of March 2016, Steckborn, Switzerland

Report of the EDE “Creating a transformative Culture”

Basic stats

Place:	Community Schloss Glarisegg at the Lake of Constance, 8266 Steckborn in Switzerland
Time:	28 th of January to 27 th of February
Number of participants:	54
age:	21 – 38 years
Female:	28
Male:	26
Countries:	Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Austria, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, France, Romania
Represented Communities:	nearby ZEGG (Germany), Grubisbalm (Switzerland)
Movement/associations:	swiss movement “Bio für Jede” (bio for everyone), deutsche reform jugend e.V. (german reform youth), barfood academy, classroom alive, Lebenshof “Graben” (place/farm in Bavaria, Germany), YiP, place in Portugal

Description of the course rhythms:

7:15 – 8:00	preparing breakfast
8:00 - 9:00	daily practice
9:00 -10:00	breakfast, dish washing
10:00-10:30	morning circle with community members: song, stillness, inspiration for the day, announcements/logistics
10:30 am – 1 pm	morning session
11:30 am – 1 pm	preparing lunch
1 - 3 pm	lunch break, dish washing, every third day “big cleaning party”/ “washing clothes
3-6 pm	afternoon session
5:30 - 6:30 pm	preparing dinner
6 – 8	dinner break, dish washing
8 - 9:30	evening program

- Lectures:	108,5 h, within outdoor sessions = 9 h
- Open Space:	8 h
- Homegroups:	9,5 h
- Session total (all above):	126 h
- Project groups:	22 h
- Project group presentation:	15 h

- Interaction with hosts:	17 (daily morning circle, nonverbal evening, coffee/cake with community)
- “hands on” sessions:	
1. managing a seminar center for 60 people (participants, guests, teachers) for everyone per week & 2 responsible jobs:	3 h
2. building a “Hügelbeet” in the permaculture garden:	3 h
- Social sessions (voting, plenum):	4,5 h
- cultural events (optional offers in evenings):	12 h
All in all: 126+ 73,5 = 199,5 h (50 h per week)	
Free time (while session-slots): 22,5 h	

Highlights and challenges of each dimension:

Social and Worldview

We weaved these two dimensions in the first two weeks together, because they inspired and supported each other very well.

We started the EDE on Thursday evening with building three home-groups. While the whole EDE the three homegroups met every third/forth day for individual sharing and community building. Jashana, Sonja-Vera and Elisabeth lead them. Jashana held the space in the spirit of “everything, which arises can take place and has its space”, Elisabeth did “deep sharing” and Sonja-Vera practiced the sharing in the form of the “Forum”, as it is practiced in ZEGG and Tamera. The participants recognized, that the homegroups were an important pillow for the whole EDE. The homegroups made it possible for Jashana, Elisabeth and Sonja-Vera to contain a deeper knowledge and connection to every participant and the whole group. With this tool we could understand and care for each individual and the group processes in an adequate way. Elisabeth, Jashana and Sonja-Vera met every morning at 9 o`clock for a short check in for ourselves and to do a short clearing for the issues of the day.

We started the EDE with “we are all in this together”. The practical side ment, that the whole organization of the cleaning, cooking and dish washing was done by all of our participants. This “hands on”-project was leading and running the Schloss Glarisegg Seminar Center daily for 65 EDE-people (plus guests and some community members).

Wthin allthe 4 weeks the responsibility was taken in a impressive careful and good mooded way.

We were very lucky to have Holger (yoga teacher) working for us as a cook. He taught our participants how to cook vegan, tasty and on a very low price level. Holger initiated circles before the beginning of the meals with singing, silence and saying thanks to mother earth. Our food was cooked and arranged in such a careful way, that we had no food waste. We had an expert of food waste of the University of Zürich within our participants. He told us, that even in comparison to a food-waste-event of the Suisse University we have much less food waste!

Another daily ritual was the morning circle at 10 o`clock with a song, silence an the reading of an inspiration for the day and the announcement of the program of the day and logistical announcements. As we took this ritual from the community we didn` t know, how it would develop in such a large group. Next year the announcements of the day and the logistical we will take out of the morning circle ritual and put it at the beginning of the morning session.

We introduced a lot of methods of social communication and community building tools to the

participants. They implemented them in their project groups.

After the beginning of the course we took a day for introducing the different possibilities of the project groups. In the evening everyone was connected in one project group. We had two facilitators for all the groups, who could bring their knowledge of Dreaming, Non-violent-communication, Permaculture and Business coaches into these fields. They also facilitated the presenting time of the project groups.

Then we got a theoretical introduction of sociocracy via Skype with Andrei Luroaia. Afterwards the whole EDE community voted in the sociocratic way a council, called "Pavillon". The task of the Pavillon was to give the feedback of participants to the initiators (Elisabeth, Jashana, Sonja-Vera), to lead two plenums (making decisions on the schedule) and to go on developing the schedule with us. One of the Pavillon members dealt with the cash flow of the course. We also voted for their Community Caring Council (=CCC). The CCC cared about the communication, mediation and the whole social field of the course. In the CCC four men and three women were engaged.

We deeply connected to the theme of post-colonialism and the issue of rank. Nearly everyone went through deep inner themes and could allow him/herself to look at them and go through them. That's why most of the participants said, that the EDE-course changed their life. The participants initiated a mens and womans- circles and an evening, were both circles met in a ritual. The participants themselves made dancing with live-music, disco nights, an open-mic evening and a lot of cuddling and deep sharings until late in the nights.

The social and worldview dimension of the EDE was really strongly deepened on the first two weeks of the course, without a regular free time for integration. This is something we want to change in the next EDE. At the end of these two weeks the participants, who were more intellectual orientated, wanted more input in form of theory. At this point Stephen Busby gave his work of transparent communication and family/systemic constellation into the field. Also being a man and doing a very deeply connecting work for all levels he could bring the participants to a new acceptance and understanding for the whole way of this EDE and the chosen priorities. So the whole group could relax again and some individual processes could develop into a constructive way. The emphasis on the worldview and social dimension is also the key of this EDE. For a lot of participants this EDE was so life changing, because it gave themselves the first time in their life a spiritual orientation and a feeling of coming home. They could experience a deep connection to themselves and this community of pioneers in their age in the field of visions of the global movement of ecovillages.

In the **ecological** aspect the permaculture principles were introduced by Anne in a very understandable way. We showed the principles implemented while a tour in our permaculture garden and visualised in our forest. Our forest is left in a wild state and not treated of any human being since 50 years. For some people the tour in the ecological renovated buildings made their theoretical knowledge visible and experienced in lively impressions. The inputs of the participants to the ecological, political and economic field were always adding important connotations and differentiated inputs.

In the ecological dimension Petra Heid (community member) introduced us to field of fair-trade and biological production. She is an expert from a Swiss chocolate company for a long time, working in South-America and Africa. She could give the important theoretical background information. She has been working herself in all these countries, so her speech touched ourselves and could give us a realistic insight.

In the **economic** field Jashana connected us deeply with the money issue in theory, films and games. In

a Skype call we connected with “Mumta Ito” to the development to a holistic approach to law – the rights of nature. Afterwards we worked one day with Christian Felber on the “Economy of common good”. We made some Contact Improvisation and music session for relaxation in between the long and intense theoretical sessions.

Sentence on each core faculty/facilitator

without naming the EDE-initiators Elisabeth Schrag, Jashana Kippert and Elisabeth, who were also facilitators in all the four dimensions. They were described with their faculties in the first EDE-certification 2015.

Stephen Busby, living at Findhorn, working in the EDE together with Daniel auf der Mauer and Heike Wegener:

transparent communication, connected with body-awareness and systemic constellation. At one point of the course his input was very important because he released a lot of tension. It also gave the men a possibility to connect to the wisdom of a men in this GEN- field.

Anne Lohmann is community experienced from living at Sieben Linden and in Glarisegg for 9 years. She could give in a good mood and well organized methods her theoretical inputs in the fields of permaculture, spiral dynamics, structural development of projects etc.

Till Henning, Tzegha Kibrom (her parents are from Eritrea)

Both are very experienced as seminar leaders. They are with and black skin mixed couple and have two little black children. They could introduce into the theme of post-colonialism very precise and deeply.

Petra Heid

Great and deep Power-point presentation to her profession of the fair-trade and ecological way of chocolate production. She also brought a lot of very cheap, fair-trade and bio- chocolate, nibs and beans from her company to our EDE.

Rene Duveen

Cofounder of the community “Sennrüti”, 1 h drive from Glarisegg and nearly the same size as Glarisegg and with an ecologic energy- and heating system. As founder of a community project he could answer all the important questions due to the money and structural themes about founding a community and big project with a lot of children.

Christian Felber

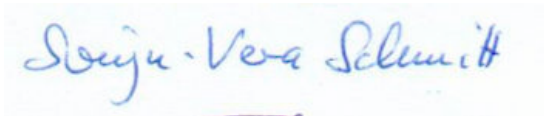
Internationally known as capacity in the economic field. He also is impressive as personality, being a very patient teacher. He has such a new way to look to political themes, so it gives hope for a possibility for a deep change of our current system. Having such a lot of knowledge in the economic field it is very astonishing to get him to know as a contact-Improvisation dancer.

Finances of the course

We tried to get money from the swiss- european Erasmus program and the swiss foundation “Mercator”. One month before the beginning of the course we got to know, that we wont get any

grant. So we had to deal with the amount of money we got directly from the participants. As the participants were all very young and almost not in good paid jobs, we had a slim financial basis. We invited the community members and other facilitators to give their knowledge without being paid. Christian Felber was the only one to be engaged with his normal fee of 1200 € a day. As our cook and our participants saved such a lot of money with careful food management, we could save a lot of money in this field. At the end of the course we found out, that we three initiators and the cook could work on the level of 8 swiss francs per hour for realizing this EDE course 2016.

Our focus of this course we could describe as the possibility to connect to the field of deep ecology and deep democracy. We took these fields to do a lot of individual inner work, community building within the project groups, the homegroups, the EDE-course for connecting in a deep, clear way to your own heart, our spiritual dimension and to the GEN movement.



Respectfully
Sonja-Vera Schmitt
commissioned by the EDE organization team