



HUMUS

BEYOND

ESC Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas



16 July - 3 September 2026



Hopeland eco-community in Argolida, Greece



Co-funded by
the European Union



ΕΛΠΙΔΟΧΩΡ
Hopeland



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BE A HOPELANDER!

Live for a **month** at Hopeland, an educational eco-community in southern Greece. Join 18 volunteers from across Europe and get the full Hopeland experience, **guided** and supported by the crew. Roll up your sleeves, unleash your **creativity**, and dive into **hands-on work** to enhance the space, improve sustainability practices, and contribute to the growth of the project. Experience living and working together in a **communal setting**, embracing the challenges and opportunities that come with it. All while picking up new skills, making meaningful connections, and finding **joy** along the way!





ABOUT THE PROJECT



Why Humus?

Humus is the core part of the soil, the dark organic material in soils providing fertility. Humus is what is left from the before and is what we have for starting the new.

Humus is a 3-year Volunteering Teams project aimed at creating more **resilient communities** by fostering a healthy lifestyle, encouraging collective action on climate change, and nurturing a sense of belonging to support social inclusion. It mobilises young volunteers and enhances civic and community engagement in local contexts.

In this third and final year, we focus on building on what was learned in the previous years and **turning it into action**. Participants will take part in hands-on activities and community tasks to reflect on these experiences and **create materials** to share with a wider audience. The goal is to **spread the impact of the project** beyond the community.



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 **natural materials** from volunteers, visitors and staff members who have stayed with us throughout the last 13 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, accountability, 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 and youth workers** 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.





FOCUS 1: HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

During the project, volunteers will be divided into two main groups, while still sharing common tasks and daily life as one community.



The larger group will support the **hands-on activities**. At Hopeland, hands-on activities are at the heart of the experience, focusing on improving the space and its sustainability. As a volunteer, you'll take part in maintaining existing structures, and enhancing overall infrastructure through gardening, eco-building, landscaping, woodworking, and more. Alongside these, the community shares **practical daily tasks** such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, managing social media, watering the gardens, and caring for animals.

Tasks shift with the seasons, guided by both immediate needs and Hopeland's long-term vision. Throughout your stay, you'll **rotate** through different activities, getting a feel for everything. If something sparks your interest, there's space to **dive deeper** and develop your skills.

Apart from the set ongoing projects proposed by Hopeland's crew, if you feel inspired, you can also **take the initiative** to propose your own project, draft a plan, bring it to the crew and if you get green light, bring it to life.



FOCUS 2: CREATION OF A PROMO CAMPAING

During the project, volunteers will be divided into two main groups, while still sharing common tasks and daily life as one community.



A smaller group will focus on the **creation of a promotional campaign**, aimed at sharing the results and impact of the previous two years. This group will be composed of participants who either have some experience in communication, media, or creative work, or are motivated to develop their digital and creative skills.

Their main task will be to **design and produce a variety of social dissemination materials** that communicate the project's core themes: promoting a healthy lifestyle, sustainability, and inclusive, resilient communities. This may include creating digital materials such as videos, posters or booklets, and the process will involve **brainstorming ideas, developing content, storytelling, and working collaboratively** to create meaningful and engaging outputs that will be used by partner organisations for dissemination.

Volunteers in this group will still **participate in common tasks, activities and community life**, but will dedicate most of their working hours to this creative and communication-focused task.



CONNECTING & EXPANDING

Hopeland is also a space for **collaboration** and **exchange**.

Beyond our own projects, we seek to connect with the **local community** and nearby initiatives, whether by supporting local farmers, visiting eco-communities, organizing clean-up efforts, organising blood-donation initiatives, or collaborating with local businesses. During the project we will invite a **local collaborator**, Martins, who will guide and support a hands-on action in the place.

Our goal is to create **meaningful exchanges** where we contribute to the places we engage with while gaining valuable learning experiences on both an individual and group level. As a volunteer, you'll be encouraged to play a **vital part** in these efforts by actively participating in the proposed events and also bringing your own ideas to the table.

Follow-up action

As a final step of the project, volunteers will commit to carry out a follow-up action once they return home. This is an opportunity to **share** what you learned, **reflect** on your experience, and **inspire** others to get involved in similar initiatives.





BEYOND WORK



The **fun** at Hopeland doesn't stop when the work day ends.

Beyond the 7 working hours each weekday, you'll have plenty of time to **enjoy** your stay here at Hopeland. Reading under the oak tree, swimming in Nafplio, hiking through the natural surroundings, or visiting nearby villages and cultural sites. How you spend your free time is up to you, whether it's **recharging**, **discovering**, or simply **relaxing**.

During your free time, there's also the opportunity for **skill-sharing**, where anyone can offer workshops or activities based on their own interests. It's entirely up to you whether you want to join in.

There's always something going on at Hopeland, as long as someone is ready to **make it happen**.



HOPELAND CREW



Hopeland is run by a small, international community of long-term residents who live and work together, known as the **Hopeland crew**. Each crew member brings their unique expertise, contributing to the daily life and sustainability of the place. The crew is also here to **support** and **guide** you, enhancing your volunteering experience. Whether it's cleaning, cooking, gardening, or building, there's always someone ready to help. Beyond practical guidance, the Hopeland crew is dedicated to **sharing** their knowledge, answering your questions, and helping you settle into the rhythm of community life.

As a short-term volunteer, you'll also have a **mentor** whose primary focus is your well-being and personal growth throughout your stay. Your mentor will support you with your daily tasks and **learning development**, help you navigate group dynamics, and guide you through **reflection sessions**, where you can process your experiences and make the most out of your time at Hopeland.



VOLUNTEER'S PROFILE

We are offering this opportunity to **18 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 30 on the first day of the project)
- Legal **residents** of countries covered by the program 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 open to sharing space, responsibilities, and decision-making with others in a **communal setting**
- **Enthusiastic** with hands-on activities and practical tasks like gardening, building, cooking, cleaning
- Willing to develop their **digital literacy skills** and learn how to **promote social impact** through content creation
- Eager to show **commitment**, take **initiatives** and create **opportunities** for themselves and society
- **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.



AN IMPORTANT NOTE

At Hopeland, we want to make sure the experience is a **good fit** for everyone.

The work here can be **physically demanding**. Tasks like gardening, eco-building, and other hands-on activities require a certain level of fitness so check if you are ready for it. We also ask for **personal responsibility**, this means taking care of yourself, being mindful of your time, and doing your part as an **active member** of the team.

This is not a vacation. It's a chance for **personal growth** through physical work and shared experiences, so be prepared to engage fully. We want everyone to have a **fulfilling** and **enjoyable** experience, please think about these points when deciding if this is the right fit for you.





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 bushes, 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, yet made with lots of **love** and effort by previous Hopelanders, giving the place its own **special charm**. You're encouraged to see it as your **home**, take care of it and add your own touch to help make it even better.

- Accommodation is happening in a big camping area that we call the **Village** and in the **Guest House**. In the Village, there are **5 big teepee tents** with **4 beds** in each, 2 outdoor toilets and 2 outdoor showers. Additionally, there is **1 compost toilet** around the estate. The **guest house** is 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. It has 2 indoor toilets and an indoor shower. The volunteers decide where they want to stay once they arrive.
- 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.
- Hopeland is a **vegetarian, no-drugs venture**. We believe that human beings can reach the utmost of their potential without the consumption of substances. Alcohol is prohibited during work hours, and we encourage minimal consumption overall.
- There is a separate **kitchen** building and a roofed dining area with all the necessary equipment. During the working week, we are **cooking and eating our meals communally**.
- There is **wifi** in specific area which you can use if needed.





THE PRACTICALS

Pocket money

- You will receive 7€/day for your personal expenses

Food money

- Your food budget will be added to the communal fund, as we manage grocery shopping collectively.

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





THE TIMELINE

Arrival

16 July 2026

Program starts

17 July 2026

Program ends

2 September 2026

Departure

3 September 2026



You can travel up to 9 days (green travel) or 7 days (non-green travel) before/after the project, with accommodation and food expenses covered by you. Late arrivals or early departures aren't possible. **Travelling green** (bus/train) is highly encouraged and in tune with our eco-friendly spirit.



GET A GLIMPSE OF LIFE IN HOPELAND

Volunteering teams 2025



Volunteering teams 2024



A day in Hopeland



Humus 3.0 | ESC Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas



INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION



At Hopeland, **sustainability is at the core of our journey**. We are continuously exploring ways to care for the environment, nurture a **regenerative** economy, and cultivate meaningful connections with those around us. Our aim is to find **greener**, more mindful ways of living, embracing both the challenges and possibilities that come with it.

We have taken steps like living off-grid, using eco-friendly building practices, and choosing a vegetarian lifestyle. At the same time, we recognize that sustainability is an **ongoing process**, full of learning and adaptation. Rather than striving for perfection, we focus on **intentional steps forward**, growing through experience and shared knowledge.

We invite you to **come along in this journey**. Bring your energy, ideas, and hands-on involvement as we continue shaping a more sustainable and inclusive world **together**.



READY TO JOIN HUMUS?

If what you've read so far **resonates** with you and you are ready to join Hopeland and Humus project, then **take the first step** and...

[Apply here!](#) >

We are forming the group as applications come in. If your profile is a **good fit**, we'll invite you to a **video call** with the mentor to meet each other and see if it's a mutual match. If selected, you'll receive a detailed email with all the next steps. Everyone who applies will hear back from us within 2 weeks.





STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



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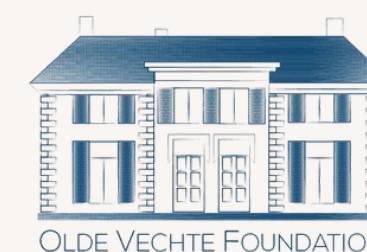
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Humus project is co-funded by the European Education & Culture Executive Agency via the European Solidarity Corps programme.