

ESC at Hopeland

Argos, Greece

 Individual Volunteering Opportunity

Duration: 10 months





Be a Hopelander



Live for 10 months in Hopeland, a 7-acre eco place in southern Greece focusing on sustainability, and create your own personalized volunteering experience, as part of an eco community.

Use your **hands**, your **mind**, your **creativity** and any other skills you might have to support the Hopeland crew into **hosting group trainings and residencies**, into **maintenance of the place**, and into **outreaching the local community** of Hopeland.

Hopeland - Context

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) with natural materials from volunteers, visitors and guests who have visited and stayed with us throughout the last 10 years.

We are envisioning a space which can nourish people who are nourishing themselves through nourishing the space that is nourishing them. Thus, creating a spiral of positiveness and mutual enrichment, serving as catalysts for improving our broader society.

We believe in promoting and maintaining the ecosystem's diversity at the environmental and social levels, so **different needs, experiences, and identities can find space and place in our community.**





ESC at Hopeland Principles



50% of the project is focusing on supporting Hopeland crew in their regular, ongoing tasks, based on 4 domains of service.



50% of the project is focusing on being part of an educational eco-community as a volunteer.



Domains of service



- 01 Maintain & Upgrade
 - 02 Host groups and activities
 - 03 Outreach the local community
 - 04 Leave your own mark and beyond
-



Maintain & Upgrade



Hands-on actions and activities focusing on the maintenance & improvement of the place.

It can be **maintaining the gardens and keeping in a good condition the infrastructure and facilities of the estate, farming, taking care of the animals, opening paths, making wooden constructions or eco building**, and other initiatives for improving the sustainability factors of the place.



Host groups and activities



Between March and November, we will have several Erasmus+ groups and volunteering teams being at Hopeland for learning activities. Most of these activities are connected in one way or another with the idea of sustainability.

As part of the Hopeland crew, you will be asked to **support hosting these groups in several ways and according to your skills.**

It can be **preparing the place, cooking, delivering workshops or activities, tutoring** them in task-related activities and, in general, **supporting the hosting of those groups.**



Outreach the local community



One of the parts of the project is **to reach out and connect with the local community and the local initiatives of the surrounding area.**

We aim to build **strong partnerships** and plan **common activities**, creating a positive impact for the people around Hopeland and the environment.



Leave your own mark and beyond

By joining this project you are already **considered a “Hopelander”**, and a member of the Hopeland eco-community. The place also belongs to you. To support you with that, we encourage you **to leave your mark** in Hopeland.

It can be **really anything as far as it is in line with the vision of Hopeland**. It can be from a piece of furniture made of used pallets, a piece of art from repurposed materials, a drawing, a video about Hopeland, a future project, a tree that you planted, a strong partnership with another local or international initiative, a recipe book, a new NGO etc.



This includes initiatives not only during your stay at Hopeland but also afterwards for example to create a project for your community.

For this personal project you are going to be **mentored to acquire a new skill** and in the meantime to leave something valuable for Hopeland behind.



Be part of a nurturing community



Living together for 10 months with a small number of people will give us a great chance to build a small society based on **care & common agreements**.

During **winter**, we get to know how we can co-live harmonically between the people we call "the crew" of Hopeland. It's the people who stay during **hibernation period** and ensure that animals, plants, buildings and the rest of the estates' infrastructure are being taken care of, while also taking care of each other and our eco community.

From **spring to autumn**, you will be invited to readjust your perception of this small society and your role in it, while you'll assist the Hopeland crew to host further volunteering groups, teams and activities, and where you'll have the opportunity to lead the action and transfer your newly developed attitudes and skills to the newest members.



For Whom?

We offer this opportunity to **5 volunteers, legal residents of one of the Erasmus + programme countries.**

There are several requirements from the programme itself and a profile that we would like to focus on.



Profile

- 18–30 years old (not older than 31 on the day you start your service)
- Legal resident of one of the Erasmus+ programme countries, and that does not require a visa to enter Greece
- Eager to learn or already have the knowledge or experience with the topics of the project
- Enthusiastic with hands-on activities.
- Eager to take initiative and create opportunities for themselves and society.
- Ready to live in a rural environment with basic conditions for 4,5 months.
- Ready to be challenged to align together with people from different cultures into making together a sustainable community.
- People with a clear plan and vision regarding their participation in the project and beyond.
- Extreme priority will be given to those that are facing or faced any kind of troubles in life

Special skills

- It is a bonus if you have media skills such as **photography and filmmaking** for documenting this whole experience but also support Hopeland activities, digital marketing and communication of our activities.



Hopeland - the Venture



Hopeland is a venture with objectives built around the three pillars of **personal growth, community building, and the environment.**

It aims at providing qualitative experiential learning experiences, providing a space where people explore, create and learn from each other and nature.

Our Values are sustainability, mindfulness, synergy and, of course... hope.



Hopeland - the location

Hopeland is situated **on a hill** near the village Malandreni and **located 130km** (approximately 2h) **south of Athens**. The nearest town is **Argos, 12 km** away, where you can find anything from small shops to supermarkets, banks, post offices, and bus stations. Closer to Hopeland and **4 km away** you can find **small shops and local producers selling their products**. There are no other stores in walking distance from Hopeland, so **smart and sustainable planning of supplies is needed**. Hopeland's van is used for regular resupplying trips.

It is located in a 7.7-acre piece of land, with old olive and almond trees, a spiral herb garden and a food forest, and it is surrounded by a forest and boasts, 5 oversized yew trees (which are protected by the local Forest Protection Service), as well as a **400-year-old oak tree**.





Accommodation & Facilities

Facilities in Hopeland are basic but made with lots of love and work from previous Hopelanders




Depending on the **period of the year and the at the moment residents** of Hopeland, there are **various sleeping places** available.


There is a two-storey open area with shared decks **in basic conditions guesthouse** and has been built with the strawbale eco-building technique, which is normally available from November until April.


Accommodation is also happening in a big camping area called "The Hood", where you can be hosted, either in one of the **3 wooden cabins so far available, or in a tent (you're also welcome to bring your own tent or van!)**.


Division of the **sleeping places** in taking place upon **collective decisions** among the Hopeland crew. There is **no exclusive personal space unless you choose to use your own tent or bring your own van!**


Accommodation & Facilities


 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 hair dryers** and **washing of clothes can only be done in the traditional way.**

 There is **wifi** in the area but **very limited** because **it is a 4G connection.** For this, we recommend using your own 4G or mindfully use the wifi.

 The guest house has **2 indoor toilets**, an **indoor shower** and **two more outdoor showers.** Additionally, there are two more toilets and showers in the camping area and two compost toilets around the estate.

 There is a **separate kitchen building** and a roofed dining area with all the necessary equipment for cooking and dining.

 Hopeland is a **vegetarian, no-drugs venture.** We believe that human beings can reach the utmost of their potential without the consumption of substances.





Get a glimpse from life at Hopeland

01 Hibernation period at Hopeland



02 Supporting groups and activities, as member of the Hopeland crew during summer





Practicals



Pocket money

You will receive 6€/day for your living money



Food money

You will receive a weekly budget in order to cook



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,

OLS

You are eligible for attending Online Language Support courses in Greek for the whole duration of your program.

Covid-19

The programme is originally designed without the influence of COVID-19 however sometimes plans need to be changed in order to adapt to the reality for this reason:

- We are going to follow all the **current Greek legislation and take any required measures** in order to prevent the spread of the virus.
- You are asked to follow all the "at the time"/latest regulations to enter Greece according to the Reopen EU <https://reopen.europa.eu/>.
- We are going to use all the necessary precautions "at the time" needed interacting with groups (masks, gloves, sanitiser etc.)

We will adjust together (if needed) the activities of the programme in order to fit the "at the time" COVID-19 regulations of the Greek Government.





Instead of Conclusion



What Sustainability means for us

Sustainability for us is the holistic idea to protect the **environment**, the **economy**, and the **people around us**. This means that yes, we look for greener solutions in our lives and the communities around us but also creating a balanced and harmonious connection with each other and the people around us.

Hopeland has done some steps towards being sustainable, the place is off the grid, most of the buildings are with eco-building techniques, it is a vegetarian place. However, we are fully aware that we are not 100% sustainable.

Our vision is to make every day a step towards this direction by shifting mindset through experiential learning and we are inviting you to also contribute to this action plan. We are also aware that flying people from around Europe to work on sustainability is unsustainable so we invite you to be conscious even before coming on your own travelling options and be ready to contribute with ideas and actions on how we can balance it during the programme.

We are looking forward to creating this greener world together.



Are you the next Hopelander?

If what you've read so far resonates with you and you are ready to live and work for 10 months in Hopeland, then...

[APPLY HERE](#)





Ελπιδοχώρι / Hopeland

near Malantreni, Argolis, Greece

+30 6973064768

hopeland.gr

hello@hopeland.gr



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

