



**Arterra Bizimodu** is an association which aims to create a living space to experience sustainability in 4 dimensions: ecologically, economically, socially and culturally. Hence, we work actively towards the development and realization of training courses aimed at the dissemination of this lifestyle. It makes an active contribution to environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources through an ecological and communal way of living. The motivation and main objective of this project is to open the doors of this eco-community to the European youth and to take the impact of these initiatives onto a new level by involving inspired and motivated young people in a series of activities that will employ their skills to effectively combat the challenges of climate change.

**Activity 1. Agroecological Farming:** two volunteers will be working at the community supported vegetable gardens following agroecological production methods in Arterra Bizimodu for a total duration of 6 months per volunteer.

**Activity 2. Ecological Building and Renewable Energies:** two volunteers will participate in the application of renewable energies such as solar and biomass and will work along community members in the renovation of the main building following ecological principles. This will take place in Arterra Bizimodu for a total duration of **6 months** per volunteer starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

All the tasks related to the activities are integrated into a collective daily life. Life in community is also part of the process, being an opportunity for young people to learn in tools for decision making and team management. Likewise, the young people take part in the care of the spaces in which they live, collaborating actively in the shared tasks. Making food, cleaning shifts, caring for people, are part of the agenda of this project, and volunteers will participate in these activities as one more element of the community.

Adding up these opportunities, REAY will provide a total of 4 volunteers with an unforgettable experience of living and learning in an ecovillage, specialising in one of the activities.

For all activities of this project, volunteers need to demonstrate a vivid interest in projects of sustainable community living, and a clearly stated motivation to learn about the diverse and

innovative strategies that aim to practically transform our way of living and our connection with our environment. Concern about ecological justice and social inclusion and a desire to effect change are general characteristics for candidates, coupled with a curiosity in practical and hands on activities.

The learning method for this project is learning through practice, seeking also the development of specific talents of the participants, with theoretical spaces that allow the acquisition of the necessary knowledge. Through our mentoring program, facilitated by the project coordinators, we encourage project participants to define and pursue the technical skills and know-how that they would like to acquire.

REAY is aimed at making a strong positive impact on the lives of the volunteers, providing inspiration for them to make sustainable choices regarding their future and centered on how they can contribute to society as active citizens. The experience at Arterra Bizimodu ecovillage is all about providing them with a space and network, a range of challenges and a variety of skills that will serve them to confidently confront future scenarios. The most obvious repercussion is related to the acquisition of knowledge and skills in the areas of interest they have chosen. At the same time, we are excited about the knock-on effect of a series of indirect impacts that the project will have. Our past experiences have marked a precedent for participants in that they will undergo a transformative experience during their stay.

We hope to trigger global awareness on what local communities role can be. In addition, we are certain that the volunteers will spread the ideas of ecovillages and sustainable lifestyles to their sending organisations and home countries. We have seen that this happened for past EVS volunteers who have become involved in the ecovillage movement in their home countries or through other ways of sustainable lifestyles. We deeply believe that this is a benefit for the whole European society.