

NEXT GEN





INTRODUCTION

NextGEN is developing and growing. Each regional NextGEN group has its own dynamics and challenges and yet we have a shared vision. On the level of NextGEN International in the past year we have learned how to better communicate together as regional and international representatives. It took us time to really start growing into our roles and responsibilities as NextGEN representatives and now things are happening faster and smoother. We have established regular online meetings, process on decision making and are building up our ability to work together.

On the GEN International website all NextGEN regions are now represented together at <http://nextgen.ecovillage.org/> with links to each regions website and/or Facebook page.

There was a number of regional gatherings and many projects and activities are ongoing in each of the 5 regions. Active NextGEN members from all regions have participated at three international meetings

- GEN Europe Conference in ZEGG in Germany
- New Story Summit, Findhorn in United Kingdom
- Global Ecovillage Summit, Dakar in Senegal.

NextGEN North America

The event of the year for NextGEN North America was the first-ever Youth Ecovillage Summit (YES) in North America that took place during the 24-27th of April 2014. The event was hosted by NextGEN and held at Sirius Community, a 35+ year-old ecovillage in Massachusetts, U.S.A. An educational event, the Summit brought together some of the most exciting activists, educators, and students inspired by the ecovillage as a place to live, learn, and share. Over forty individuals from across North America attended, including a dozen from Canada and two from as far away as California. Although a mixed group, the majority was comprised of our target audience of university students and twenty-somethings from the East Coast. The diversity helped conversations flourish around the dinner tables. In their evaluation forms, participants gave high reviews and all said they would like to attend a similar event in the future.

NextGEN NA also participated at UMass Amherst's Revisioning Sustainability Conference. In the future are planning the first official meeting for NextGEN NA [ecovillages ambassador](#) in February 2015 in New York. Around 6-8 young adults involved within ecovillages will be meeting to work on the creation of program to help more youth participation in ecovillages.





CASA Jóvenes

The year 2014 was a year of laying down the foundation of Next GEN in Latin America. They have chosen a name for their network - CASA Jóvenes (Jóvenes means Youth). They started to meet regularly as a Council with participants in Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina, in addition to some members of EcoCaravans (nomads), and launched a graphic design contest to create their network logo. As they are a small group, they use consensus decision making.

Two of their Council members participated in the Call of the Mountain EcoVillage Gathering in Colombia in January, 2015, to connect with the Colombian youth movements and spread the word about CASA Jóvenes.

They created their first Vision Document, which includes Who We Are, Our Goals, Our Membership Model, and Network Strategies. The document is in Spanish, and they hope an English version can be shared soon.

They also began organizing a series of gatherings to be held in 2015 to further establish the network both at the local and continental levels. Possible places for these gatherings include Argentina, Uruguay, and Colombia.

NextGEN Africa



Important things happened to NextGEN Africa at the Global Ecovillage Summit where they were able to hold face to face meetings as communication in Africa is at the moment the biggest challenge for smooth cooperation.

In the summit were NextGEN representatives from Africa, Europe, CASA, North America, Oceania and Asia and International level. Together they made a presentation on NextGEN and discussed about the objectives of the network.

Young Africans had their own election process to vote on eight council members for NextGen Africa. These members are from Senegal (2), Cameroon (1), Gambia (2), Ethiopia (1), Congo (1) and Kenya (1).

The group has been very lively since then, using Facebook and Skype to hold meetings and further develop NextGEN in their region.



The time spent together was very inspiring, in the group were people with many experiences from ecovillages and also those with none. It was amazing to observe how the newcomers were embracing community practice and culture into their being. NextGEN participants merged together with general GEN Conference after this one started in order to promote integration of NextGEN and GEN. After the meeting in ZEGG the NextGEN-Europe core group has been established which is now learning to implement Sociocracy to improve organisational and structural capabilities of regional network.

In 2015 the development of online learning platform for youth begins as part of Youth-led Social Innovation for Resilience (Erasmus+ funded project).

NextGEN-Europe

The event of the year in Europe was NextGEN gathering happening in parallel to GEN-Europe annual conference which was this year held in ZEGG Community in Germany. With the support of European funding the team of 8 organisers managed to bring together more than 55 young people from more than 10 European countries. NextGEN gathering started few days before the conference in order to give NextGEN people an opportunity to meet and get to know the organisation better.

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NextGEN GENOA

NextGEN Korea has been really active in 2014 and has organized a seminar on holistic education, deep ecology, and ecovillage for children and youth at Hongdoeng library, where about 20 teachers, students and parents and local newspaper journalists were present. NextGEN Korea introduced themselves to the community and the people present were inspired by the topic and stories shared.

They organized a youth camp about deep ecology and introduced ecovillage design for 20 young Koreans. In this youth camp they got facilitation support from Sunisa and Tom, NextGEN GENOA mentors and a few Korean permaculturists and yoga facilitators.

Before the International GENOA Conference in Orissa, India there was a gathering of the NextGEN Oceania & Asia youth that aimed to build a strong core group in this region. They shared experiences of the work they have been doing for the Earth in individual countries.

Some time we dedicated to designing and planning NextGEN GENOA's vision and activities. As part of the program 63 they spent time in indigenous ecovillages in the region to learn more about ecovillage living.